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<td>ALA</td>
<td>Latin American Poultry Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>AU-IBAR</td>
<td>African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>AVSF</td>
<td>Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières</td>
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<td>CABI</td>
<td>Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International</td>
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<td>CARICOM</td>
<td>Caribbean Community</td>
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<td>CBD</td>
<td>Convention on Biological Diversity</td>
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<td>CEMAC</td>
<td>Communauté économique et monétaire de l’Afrique centrale</td>
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<td>EDQM</td>
<td>European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines</td>
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<td>EEC</td>
<td>Eurasian Economic Commission</td>
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<td>EISMV</td>
<td>Ecole Inter-États des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires de Dakar</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
</tr>
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<td>EuFMD</td>
<td>European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease</td>
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<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</td>
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<td>FARM</td>
<td>Federation of Rural Associations of MERCOSUR</td>
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<td>FEI</td>
<td>Fédération Equestre Internationale</td>
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<tr>
<td>FESASS</td>
<td>Fédération Européenne pour la Santé Animale et la Sécurité Sanitaire</td>
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<td>GAPFA</td>
<td>Global Alliance of Pet Food Associations</td>
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<td>GARC</td>
<td>Global Alliance for Rabies Control</td>
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<tr>
<td>GF-TADs</td>
<td>Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases</td>
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<td>GRAP</td>
<td>Global Rinderpest Action Plan</td>
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<td>ICFAW</td>
<td>International Coalition for Animal Welfare</td>
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<td>IEC</td>
<td>International Egg Commission</td>
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<td>IETS</td>
<td>International Embryo Technology Society</td>
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<td>IFAH</td>
<td>International Federation of Horse Racing Authorities</td>
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<td>IGAD</td>
<td>Intergovernmental Authority on Development</td>
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<td>IICA</td>
<td>Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture</td>
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<td>IMO</td>
<td>International Maritime Organization</td>
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<td>IPC</td>
<td>International Poultry Council</td>
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<td>IUCN</td>
<td>International Union for the Conservation of Nature</td>
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<td>MERCOSUR</td>
<td>Southern Common Market</td>
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<td>MERS</td>
<td>Middle East respiratory syndrome</td>
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<tr>
<td>NACA</td>
<td>Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific</td>
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<tr>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development</td>
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<td>OIRSA</td>
<td>Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria</td>
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<td>PAHO</td>
<td>Pan American Health Organization</td>
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<td>PANAFTOASA</td>
<td>Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center</td>
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<td>PANVAC</td>
<td>Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre of the African Union</td>
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<td>PANVET</td>
<td>Pan American Association of Veterinary Sciences</td>
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<td>PCP</td>
<td>Progressive control pathway</td>
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<td>RSPCA</td>
<td>Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals</td>
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<td>SG-CAN</td>
<td>General Secretariat of the Andean Community</td>
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<td>SSAFE</td>
<td>Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere</td>
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<td>WAEMU</td>
<td>West African Economic and Monetary Union</td>
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<td>WCO</td>
<td>World Customs Organization</td>
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<td>WHO</td>
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<td>WRO</td>
<td>World Renderers Organisation</td>
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<td>WTO</td>
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Final Report
of the Sessions
INTRODUCTION

1. The 86th General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates\(^1\) of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) was held from 20 to 24 May 2018 at the Maison de la Chimie, and on 25 May 2018 at the OIE Headquarters, in Paris (France), under the chairmanship of Dr Botlhle Michael Modisane (South Africa), President of the Assembly. Dr Hugo Federico Idoyaga Benítez (Paraguay) chaired the part of the First Plenary Session dealing with the Technical Item and Dr Sen Sovann (Cambodia) chaired the part of the Second Plenary Session dealing with interventions by international organisations. Dr Mark Schipp (Australia) chaired the part of the Eighth Plenary Session after his election as President of the Assembly.

2. One hundred and fifty one Members sent delegations to the General Session.

3. Observers from 5 non-member countries or territories and representatives of 62 international and regional organisations having an agreement with the OIE also attended the General Session.

4. The Director General of the OIE, Dr Monique Eloit, participated in the sessions in a consultative capacity and served as Secretary General.

5. Dr Sarah Kahn (Australia) participated in the General Session as Rapporteur for the Technical Item.

6. The Presidents of the OIE Specialist Commissions and the Chair of the Working Group on Wildlife and representatives of some ad hoc Groups also participated in the plenary sessions.

7. Dr Romano Marabelli, Honorary President of the Assembly, Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Immediate Past President of the Assembly, and Dr Bernard Vallat, Honorary Director General of the OIE, participated in the General Session.

8. Twenty one Guests of Honour (Ministers, Members of Government and senior representatives of multilateral institutions) also participated in the Opening Session.

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**Sunday 20 May 2018**

Opening Session

9. To welcome the distinguished guests and participants to the 86th General Session, a musical group was invited to enliven the Opening Session.

10. President Modisane then welcomed the participants and thanked the following for honouring the OIE with their presence at the opening ceremony: Mr Umirzak Shukeyev (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Agriculture of Kazakhstan), Mr Blairo Borges Maggi (Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply of Brazil), Mr Sakhon Veng (Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Cambodia), Mr Daniel Paluku Kisaka Yere Yere (Minister for Fisheries and Livestock of Democratic Republic of the Congo), Mr Fekadu Beyene (Minister for Livestock and Fisheries of Ethiopia), Mr Stéphane Travert (Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Democratic Republic of the Congo), Mr Levan Davitashvili (Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia), Mr Mohamed Tall (Minister of Livestock and Animal Production of Guinea), Ms Kané Rokia Maguiraga (Minister for Livestock and Fisheries of Mali), Ms Vatma Vall Soueina (Minister of Livestock of Mauritania), Mr Batjargal Batzorig (Minister for Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia), Mr Vincent Bamulangaki Sempijja (Minister for Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries of Uganda), Ms Gerardine Mukeshimana (Minister for Agriculture and Animal

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\(^1\) Hereafter “the Assembly”
Resources of Rwanda), Mr Sheikh Nur Mohamed Hassan (Minister for Livestock of Somalia), Mr Bushara Jumma Aror (Minister for Animal Resources of Sudan), Mr James Duku (Minister for Livestock and Fisheries of South Sudan), Mr Mahamat Annadif Youssouf (Minister of Livestock and Animal Production of Chad), Mr Ouro Koutra Agadazi (Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Togo), Mr Valery Koreshkov (Member of the Board – Minister in charge of Technical Regulation of the Eurasian Economic Commission), Mr Hamad Abdullaziz Al Batshan (Deputy Minister for Animal Resources, Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture of Saudi Arabia), Mr Greg Ibach (Under Secretary, for Marketing and Regulation Programs at the United States Department of Agriculture), Mr Nodar Kereselidize (First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia), Ms Gulmira Issayeva (Vice Minister of Agriculture of Kazakhstan), Mr Bounkhouang Khambounheuang (Vice Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Laos), Ms Luisa Celma Meque (Vice Minister for Agriculture and Food Security of Mozambique), Mr Bakhromjon Norkobilov (Chairman of the State Veterinary committee of Uzbekistan), Mr Makuei Kaang (Undersecretary for Livestock and Fisheries of South Sudan), Mr Bassirou Sene (H.E. Ambassador to France, representing the Minister of Livestock and Animal Production of Senegal), Mr Samwel William Shelukindo (H.E. Ambassador to France, representing the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries of Tanzania), Mr Van Tam Vu (Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam), Mr Mark Humes (Chairman of the Bahamas Agricultural Health and Food Safety Authority), Mr David Kolitangane (Permanent Secretary of Agriculture of Fiji), Ms Némé Hélène Bali (Secretary General of the Ministry for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Togo), Mr Enrique Sanchez Cruz (Director General of the National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food of Mexico), Mr Ricardo José Somarriba Reyes (Executive Director of the Institute for Agricultural Protection and Health of Nicaragua), Mr Mohammed bin Ohaïd Al-Mazzrooei (Chairman of the Board and President of the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development) and Ms Maris Llorens (OIE Goodwill Ambassador).

11. In his address, the President recalled the main areas of work being undertaken by the OIE within the framework of implementing the Sixth Strategic Plan and emphasised the importance of cooperation with the other Organisations and the transparency of information transmitted on sanitary risks. He emphasised the important role played by Delegates and encouraged them to make an active contribution to the work of the General Session. In this respect, he applauded the preparatory work done by the Specialist Commissions and their Secretariat. Nearing the end of his term of office, the President lastly paid tribute to the members of the Council who had contributed to the work of the Council and he thanked the Director General and her staff for their assistance.

12. Following his address, the President handed the floor to Mr Travert, Mr Borges Maggi, Mr Veng, Mr Davitashvili, Mr Sene, Mr Koreshkov, Mr Ibach, Mr Al Batshan, Mr Norkobilov, Mr Sanchez Cruz and Mr Somarriba Reyes. In addition, Mr David Littleproud, Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources of Australia, delivered a video message to the Assembly.

Presentation of OIE Honorary Awards

13. Dr Modisane reminded participants that in accordance with the Basic Texts of the OIE, honorary awards could be made to members of the veterinary community for outstanding services to veterinary science and to the OIE. He then indicated the persons selected by the Council in 2018 to receive the awards: Dr Michael Graeme Garner (Australia) for the Gold Medal, and Dr Beverly Schmitt (United States of America) and Dr José Naranjo (Chile) for the Meritorious Service Award.

14. Dr Modisane commended Dr Garner and recalled the major accomplishments of his career and his outstanding services to the OIE and the veterinary world. He then delivered a speech in praise of Dr Schmitt and Dr Naranjo and presented them each with the Meritorious Service Award. The recipients thanked the President and the Assembly.
15. The floor was also given to Dr David Paton, whose award had been announced at the General Session in May 2017 but who had been unable to be present to receive the Gold Medal.

16. Several photographic and audiovisual presentations were screened during the ceremony, notably to provide a graphic review of the achievements of 2017. The winners of the 2018 OIE photo competition, on the theme of activities of animal health and welfare professionals in various contexts, selected from each of the five regions of the OIE and the network of veterinary students that took part in the competition, were presented with their awards by the President.

17. Following the ceremony, Dr Modisane declared open the 86th General Session of the Assembly.

MONDAY 21 MAY 2018

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. In accordance with the provisions of the General Rules, the President ascertained that a quorum was achieved at sessions during which resolutions were submitted to the Assembly for adoption.

Two videos on the work of the OIE and the launch of the General Session were screened.

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable
(Docs 86 SG/7 and 86 SG/8)

19. The President asked whether the participants had any comments on 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 87th and 88th General Sessions

21. The Assembly appointed the Sub-Commission responsible for preparing the agenda for the 87th and 88th General Sessions. This Sub-Commission, chaired by Dr Karin Schwabenbauer (Germany) and Dr Joaquín Braulio Delgadillo Álvarez (Mexico), elected Members of the Council, also included the Presidents of the five Regional Commissions.

Nomination of the Credentials Committee

22. The Assembly appointed Dr Karin Schwabenbauer (Germany) and Dr Kamal Tag El Sir El Sheikh (Sudan), 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.
Dr Eloït presented the salient points of the report on activities in 2017 contained in the summary of document 86 SG/1, full details of all the activities carried out by the OIE in 2017 being presented in the said report and during other sessions of the General Session. This work programme had been carried out within the framework of the Sixth Strategic Plan and in application of the 3-year work programme adopted by the Assembly in 2015. This comprehensive overview enabled the Delegates to precisely monitor the correspondence between the commitments made by the Director General and the results as they were being achieved during the period 2016-2020 covered by the Sixth Strategic Plan.

The 85th OIE General Session, held in May 2017, was very well attended.

Two Conferences of Regional Commissions (Asia, the Far East and Oceania and the Middle East), generously hosted by Malaysia and Turkey, were successfully held in 2017. The new conference format, which had been tested in 2016, was more dynamic and was well appreciated by the participants.

At the end of 2017, the OIE had 181 Members and 12 regional and sub-regional offices, as well as a new liaison office in the United States of America. An agreement was signed in November 2017 with the Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases, situated at College Station, Texas, to host this new office for a symbolic amount of 1 USD. This Institute is a unit of Texas A&M University, which, since 2014 is recognised as one of the OIE’s Collaborating Centres in the field of biological threat reduction. Lastly, the office of the OIE Regional Representation in Moscow (Russia) is now established and operational thanks to the institutional and financial support of the Russian Federation.

In 2017, three agreements were signed, with the PANVET, HealthforAnimals and GAPFA.

Whereas the Strategic Plan had already served as the basis for a roadmap for each Department or Unit at the OIE Headquarters in 2016, a similar process was undertaken in 2017 for the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations; the results reflected the strong and immediate commitment of all OIE staff to the operational implementation of the Strategic Plan. An active communication policy also enabled Delegates and partners to be kept informed of the Organisation’s activities.

Rather than detail the activities undertaken, the Director General highlighted the following:

- The continued development of major control strategies for animal diseases. In addition to the launch of the action plan to implement the five-year PPR eradication programme and the launch of the global strategic plan to combat rabies, a think tank on the use made of vaccine banks was held in November 2017. The conclusions would serve to define the OIE’s policy on the subject, which would be made public during 2018;

- The establishment of a new strategy for developing the PVS Pathway, following another three-day think tank, held in April 2017. Furthermore, actions to strengthen the capacities of health services were included as a new priority of the FAO-OIE-WHO Tripartite in the strategic document adopted in June 2017. Numerous PVS experts also took part in WHO joint external evaluation missions (JEE missions) on implementation of the International Health Regulations;

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2 PANVET: Pan American Association of Veterinary Sciences
3 GAPFA: Global Alliance of Pet Food Associations
– The Tripartite alliance also confirmed its commitment to the fight against antimicrobial resistance and the OIE actively contributed to the activities of the new United Nations Interagency Coordination Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (IACG) and the functioning of its secretariat, based in Geneva within WHO;

– The organisation of the 2nd Global Conference on Biological Threat Reduction, which was held in Ottawa (Canada) from 31 October to 2 November 2017. The conclusions reached at the conference were now being used to define the OIE’s work programme in this field and to negotiate with the OIE’s principal donors regarding financial support;

– The launch of the WAHIS+ project, with the formation of a dedicated project team, collection of the funds needed to launch the first phase and publication of a call for tenders to select a firm to be tasked with developing the application;

– The implementation of new procedures to evaluate candidates for elections to the Specialist Commissions, and implementation of new procedures to evaluate applications for recognition of Member Countries’ official status in respect of certain specific diseases

– Lastly, with the aim of improving internal performance, a map of risks was established within the framework of the internal control mechanism. As a result, information technology (IT) security and the security of the OIE’s archives were prioritised. A new IT Systems Master Plan was also established.

30. During her presentation, Dr Eloit regularly emphasised the interdependence of the OIE’s actions organised around the three priority objectives of the Strategic Plan. She thus demonstrated that the Organisation’s historic mandate, namely setting animal health and welfare standards and collecting and disseminating world animal health information, is now indissociable from the commitment to strengthen the capacities of Veterinary Services.

31. Dr Eloit ended her presentation by thanking not only the OIE’s teams, but also all those who had made a significant contribution to the achievement of these results: the members of the Specialist Commissions and ad hoc Groups, who contributed through their scientific expertise; the experts from the network of Reference Centres; the host countries of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations; the Members that placed their staff at the disposal of the OIE and those that allocated funding to enable the development of an ambitious programme of activities; and the partners whose collaboration maximised the potential of the OIE’s actions. She also addressed her warmest thanks to all the Members for their encouragement and support.

32. The President emphasised the productivity and quality of work of the OIE’s teams as well as the new dynamism within the OIE.

33. Brazil, speaking on behalf of the 6 member countries of the Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (PVC) (Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay), thanked the Director General for her presentation, as well as the Council and the Specialist Commissions for the excellent work carried out. Brazil reaffirmed the importance of the PVS Pathway as a support tool for OIE Members. He emphasised that a regional initiative to strengthen Veterinary Services had been launched in PVC member countries, based on the use of the PVS tool and including training regional experts in the PVS Pathway in all PVC member countries. Brazil also reaffirmed the willingness of all PVC members to define collaboration strategies at regional level, and thanked the OIE for its support in this process, by facilitating the various stages and offering a consolidated reference framework at regional level. In particular, he pointed out that all the PVC member countries had undertaken to carry out a PVS evaluation after two years to better identify strengths and weaknesses, and to respond accordingly. He ended by stating the desire of PVC member countries to improve animal health and welfare in the region.
34. Senegal congratulated the OIE and its staff on the efforts undertaken with respect to control of PPR, FMD, rabies and AMR within the Sixth Strategic Plan and encouraged the OIE to continue this important work. With respect to the vaccine bank for rabies, a question was raised as to whether or not oral vaccination would be used to halt the spread of rabies by stray dogs.

35. In response, the Director General stressed that the OIE vaccine banks are available only through donor support, and that clarity is necessary on the context and criteria for their use, for which a strategic note is being developed. She underlined that in her personal opinion, the OIE should not be a substitute for the pharmaceutical industry and that availability of vaccines through the OIE should be clearly delineated, e.g. in the context of sanitary emergencies of diseases for which the OIE has a global strategy in place, as the delivery of vaccines should be coupled with an assessment of the follow-up of vaccination and its impact. She concluded that, regarding rabies, the ambitious programme for zero deaths by dog-mediated rabies by 2030 initiated by the Tripartite in collaboration with GARC includes advocacy and communication strategies to engage donors and pharmaceutical partners to achieve this goal.

36. Norway thanked the Director General for the clarity of her activity report and for the excellent work of the OIE. She nevertheless regretted that the OIE was not more active in the field of aquaculture, still a young sector but one with great potential for development, especially for exports. She stated that aquaculture now accounted for over 50% of seafood exports, a figure that was constantly rising. Norway issued a reminder of the challenges facing the sector, such as Tilapia lake virus (currently present on three continents), and invited the OIE and its Members to allocate more resources to this sector, to enable standards for the prevention, control and notification of aquatic animal diseases, as well as standards governing global trade of aquaculture products, to be developed and applied.

37. The Director General stressed that the OIE would continue to invest in aquaculture, notably thanks to the valued support of Norway, and she recalled that the work of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission and the existence of a specific component of the PVS tool for countries engaged in aquaculture, while noting, however, that in some countries access to the interlocutors responsible for aquaculture posed a challenge when they were not within the national Veterinary Services. Lastly, she emphasised that antimicrobial resistance was a significant topic for the aquaculture sector and that the current work of the OIE in this field also extended to this sector.

38. The Democratic Republic of the Congo noted that while rinderpest had been eradicated and simulation exercises had been organised to test certain elements of preparedness should it re-emerge, the virus continued to present a danger due to the stocks held by laboratories in certain countries. He called on the OIE Members to do more in terms of destroying and securing remaining stocks. The DRC also highlighted the work done by Delegates to engage with and raise awareness of high-level political authorities on these issues, as their support is crucial for Veterinary Services. The DRC encouraged the OIE to conduct similar advocacy, especially within the framework of the Tripartite.

39. In response to the first point, the Director General stressed that FAO and the OIE were working tirelessly to encourage countries to declare rinderpest stocks, and persuade them to destroy remaining stocks. Furthermore, much has been achieved in terms of awareness concerning the virus and the disease thanks to communication campaigns. Moreover, the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) was currently addressing the question of establishing a vaccine bank (reserve) in support of post-eradications. With respect to advocacy at the highest political levels, Dr Eloit noted that the OIE and partner organisations seize every opportunity to advocate on the subject. In this regard, she thanked Delegates for doing the same, but also noted the importance of enhancing inter-sectorial collaboration at Ministry level first. Dr Eloit noted that for certain cross-sectoral health issues, such as AMR, the spokesperson is often the Minister of Health. Where countries do not possess mechanisms
or platforms to facilitate collaboration across sectors, Delegates should encourage Veterinary Services and the Minister of Agriculture to work with the health sector to provide the perspectives of both sectors, so that the voice of animal health is better heard, including in international fora.

40. Ghana noted that countries undertaking a PVS evaluation are responsible for the implementation of recommendations and that the OIE does not actively monitor their progress. Ghana recommended that the OIE institutionalise the monitoring of countries’ progress with implementing recommendations made during PVS missions through mandatory reporting of countries to the OIE.

41. The Director General took note of the comment made, while highlighting that this approach contrasted with the current principles of the PVS process. She also reminded the Assembly that PVS follow-up missions, while at a country’s request, allow progress to be monitored. She underlined that mandatory reporting of this type was not currently foreseen but that the evolution of the PVS Pathway would be carried out in accordance with the Assembly’s wishes.

42. The Assembly noted the report of the Director General.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 1
Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2017

43. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 1 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 1 at the end of this report.

TECHNICAL ITEM
Implementation of OIE Standards by OIE Member Countries: state of play and specific capacity building needs
(Doc. 86 SG/9)

44. Dr Hugo Federico Idoyaga Benítez Chairman of the Session, introduced Dr Sarah Kahn, Rapporteur for this Technical Item.

45. Dr Kahn presented her report, which included an analysis of the responses received to a questionnaire that had been sent to OIE Delegates in December 2017.

46. The Technical Item addressed the implementation by Member Countries of the OIE standards for international trade in live animals and animal products. The purpose of the study was to identify and analyse factors that limit implementation of the standards and make recommendations on how the OIE could help Member Countries to overcome these difficulties.

47. The high response rate (80%) shows that the importance of the OIE standards is generally understood and provides confidence regarding the analysis and recommendations in the report. In general, Member Countries expressed a high level of support for the implementation of OIE standards and this is very encouraging. However, some newer and more complex concepts are not well understood and opportunities to implement safe trade are being missed. Key challenges that were reported by a significant number of countries included a lack of technical expertise, outdated veterinary legislation, lack of confidence in applying risk management, lack of transparency, and failure on the part of both importing and exporting countries to respect the OIE standards. Inevitably, political and commercial considerations have an effect on trade policies. It is, therefore, important that OIE Delegates and their staff base their advice on scientific evidence and OIE recommendations to the extent possible, having regard to national legislative and policy frameworks within which they must operate.
48. The report identified the need for support to the national Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services, and in this regard the OIE should continue to promote its normative role and to provide communications material that can influence decision-makers in Member Countries. This is particularly important to avoid non-scientific responses to disease events at the national and global level. The report also highlighted that the OIE should continue its role as advocate for Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services, and the provision of the PVS Pathway, which provides important support to developing countries and is increasingly finding application to developed countries.

49. Specifically with regards to the uptake of the international standards, nearly all countries saw a need for more training on the OIE standards, including their relationship with the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization. The current arrangements for provision of technical advice, training and networking opportunities should be maintained or increased, with more focus on specific needs of regions. Expansion of training opportunities through the use of ‘distance learning’ should be considered. OIE Member Countries are strongly encouraged to consider the application of good regulatory practices as a means to improve the efficiency of their regulatory processes and build sustainable alliances with the private sector.

50. The OIE initiative to establish an Observatory on the implementation of standards is particularly welcomed. This should provide for identification and analysis of the impediments to use of the standards and, importantly, the recommendation of practical solutions.

51. The conclusions in the report highlight the need for the OIE to continue working to facilitate safe trade and to help Member Countries comply with their international obligations. Through the decisions of WTO dispute settlement bodies during the past two decades, the relevance of applying OIE standards to the WTO legal framework is well recognised. Member Countries noted that there are several processes for resolution of disagreements between trading partners, but they can all be complex, costly and slow. The report also notes that there are obvious benefits to establishing mutually agreeable conditions for trade without having to resort to mediation or dispute resolution.

52. The OIE should continue advocating for Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services and provide relevant capacity building opportunities. In addition, there is a need to build trust, increase transparency and encourage Member Countries to implement the OIE standards when making decisions on import and export. The OIE Observatory should play a key role in this process by monitoring the implementation of standards, analysing the impediments and identifying solutions for use by Member Countries. It will be important to separate the many factors contributing to implementation of standards and analyse them thoroughly to identify effective solutions to the problems.

**Discussion on the Technical Item**

53. Dr Idoyaga thanked Dr Kahn, and congratulated her on the excellent presentation. He highlighted the quality of the analysis, and the importance of the issues investigated for the OIE and each of its Members, who as leaders of their national veterinary services must make decisions that balance risks and opportunities. He noted that the OIE international standards have been developed with this balance in mind, through good regulatory practices and with the best scientific advice of the OIE expert network, to help Members to meet their obligations of harmonisation.

54. He opened the floor for discussion and comments to enhance Dr Sarah Kahn’s analysis.
55. Senegal, on the behalf of the 54 Members of the OIE Africa Region, commended OIE on choosing this technical item. The strict implementation of OIE standards contributes to the safe trade of animal products. Most developing countries face major challenges in improving productivity of animal production to encourage investments; modernisation of veterinary legislation; developing infrastructure and logistics. Finally the Africa Region expressed support for the recommendations in the report.

56. Bahrain thanked Dr Kahn for her excellent presentation and stressed that this questionnaire served as a basis for a self-evaluation; through the questions, they were able to pinpoint their shortcomings and noted that strengths and weaknesses varied within the country and within its regions. They expressed the need for a second stage to rectify weaknesses so as to improve the performance of veterinary services and be able to fully implement OIE standards. Workshops and training could assist Member Countries to move forward.

57. Argentina congratulated and appreciated the excellent presentation of Dr Kahn. The development of international standards is one of OIE’s core missions to guarantee safe trade in animals and animal products. Argentina commended the OIE for the initiative to develop an Observatory on the implementation of standards, which will help to identify the difficulties faced by Member Countries and the benefits of the standards. Argentina, having the current Presidency of the G20, will propose a reference to the OIE Observatory in the declaration of the G20 Agriculture Ministerial meeting and would like the other G20 member countries to support this initiative.

58. Bolivia expressed appreciation of Dr Kahn’s presentation, which provided an overview of the current situation. OIE activities are based on transparency, which is one of the most important SPS principles. OIE develops standards according to a formally established procedure. Bolivia noted that some Member Countries implement their own standards that go beyond the OIE standards and wondered if this is related to a lack of transparency.

59. Australia expressed its appreciation for the excellent work done preparing the Technical Item. Australia stated that they are placing a high priority on protecting and strengthening international rules that guide the conduct of relationships between countries. Australia expressed its support for the establishment and operation of the Observatory so that the efforts to increase implementation of standards are strategically designed, targeted, and properly evaluated to deliver tangible outcomes for the OIE and its Member Countries. The Observatory should have a clearly stated and functional implementation plan, developed in collaboration with all Member Countries, and a well-designed monitoring and evaluation framework that ensures delivery of meaningful and tangible outcomes.

60. The People’s Republic of China appreciated the analysis provided by the technical item, which can help Members to enhance disease control and trade and support implementation of OIE standards. It noted that China had been working to identify difficulties and shortcomings at the national level and wanted to provide this information to the OIE. China supports the role of OIE in providing training to Members to improve the standard implementation capabilities. The representative noted that the assistance provided by FAO in training related to veterinary legislation in his country had been a useful experience.

61. France, on behalf of the 28 Member States of the European Union (EUMS), commended the presentation as it considers it extremely important for food safety and trade. The Delegate stressed the need to consider proper implementation of the OIE standards and the official recognition of disease status adopted each year, usually through consensus by OIE Members, which will result in increasing the credibility of the OIE. The substantive work done between General Sessions by the Specialist Commissions helps Members to implement these standards. The EUMS fully support the establishment of the Observatory.
62. Iran thanked the rapporteur and highlighted that this is a key issue that directly affects global trade, especially import and export of animal products. The Delegate also proposed that the OIE create regional working groups to identify difficulties and solve problems, and organise training and support for countries in the implementation of OIE standards.

63. Indonesia highlighted the SPS principle of regionalisation. In particular it has applied this principle to create an equine disease-free zone to facilitate the Asian games in August 2018. A self-declaration of this zone has been developed by Indonesia and has been accepted by the EU. Indonesia expressed its gratitude to the OIE and the EU for the assistance to set up this zone. Furthermore, Indonesia would like to express its willingness to support the OIE to facilitate training on OIE standards and SPS issues, including risk analysis, safe trade and biosecurity.

64. Barbados asked for some clarification regarding the principle of equivalence noting it had concerns with the application of equivalence. When the measures are not in accordance with OIE standards, it sets a precedent for not using OIE standards. It raises the question for countries that do not have the confidence and the competence to decide on whether the measure is equivalent. The Delegate highlighted the need for guidelines for establishing equivalence.

65. The Netherlands supported the comments made by France on behalf of the 28 Member States of the European Union (EUMS) as it highlights the importance of the OIE standards.

66. Dr Kahn welcomed the support for the Observatory and responded to the interventions from the various delegations. She noted that the OIE is well aware of the challenges that impede the implementation of standards and that there are a range of training and capacity building activities including countries availing themselves of PVS evaluations. She further noted standards must also take into account the different situations and particular challenges facing developing and least developed countries. In response to one intervention concerning the use of the questionnaire for self-assessment, she remarked it was not meant to highlight which are the best countries and which are the worst, but it is a snapshot in time, to assist the OIE to determine how to best tailor capacity building activities to assist countries. However she agreed with Bahrain that questionnaires could be useful to benchmark their own performance. With regard to the proposal of Iran for regional approaches, she agreed these are also very important mechanisms as trade often starts at the regional level. Dr Kahn stressed that each country has the right to define its own appropriate level of protection (ALOP). However it is often the case that “extra layers” of requirements reflect a lack of confidence or understanding. If there is a genuine willingness to apply the standards the main challenge is communication and sharing information. She thanked other representatives for their positive contribution to the discussion, noting that for the Observatory to be a useful tool, it must be well designed and maintained.

67. Concerning the proposal of Barbados for further OIE guidance on equivalence, Dr Kahn noted this could be explored in collaboration with WTO. New work could be proposed by the OIE to build on what is already in the Codes. There is scope to provide more information and to provide practical examples.

68. The Chair thanked the Delegates for their contribution to the discussion and noted this was an important topic in particular for developing countries. This item will help to find a solution to the problems arising due to lack of confidence and transparency. He invited all Delegates to work together to foster confidence and trust for the purpose of international trade.

69. The Chair of the session once again congratulated Dr Kahn on her presentation and he invited Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Bolivia, France and the Netherlands, to join the Rapporteur to formulate a draft Resolution for presentation and adoption by the Assembly.

86 GS/FR – PARIS, May 2018
Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Group

Biological Standards Commission

70. The activities of the Biological Standards Commission, which met from 12 to 15 September 2017 and from 6 to 9 February 2018, were presented by Dr Beverly Schmitt, President of the Commission (Docs 86 SG/12/CS2 A and B). She thanked the Members of the Commission: Dr Franck Berthe, First Vice-President, Dr Hualan Chen, Second Vice-President, Dr Peter Daniels, Dr Mehdi El Harrak and Dr Anthony Fooks. Appreciation was expressed for the contributions by the other regular participant, Dr Steven Edwards, Consultant Editor of the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals, (Terrestrial Manual) as well as specialist contributions by OIE experts from Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, and others. Staff at the OIE Headquarters, especially the Science and New Technologies Department, have been unstinting in their support.

71. OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (mammals, birds and bees)

In March 2018, 29 chapters and the glossary that had been reviewed and approved by the Commission for circulation to Member Countries were made available on the Commission’s and on the Delegates’ website for consultation as the final versions that would be proposed for adoption.

Dr Schmitt informed the Assembly that the Commission had endorsed a new procedure for handling more transparently comments from Member Countries and Experts on draft chapters. In accordance with this decision, a traceability table showing chapter by chapter, the actions decided on by the Commission in response to comments was attached as Annex 3 to Doc. 86 SG/12/CS2 B. Dr Schmitt reminded the Delegates that they should submit the rationale for all their proposed changes to the texts, and include references where relevant for the Commission to consult.

A number of Member Countries had requested the addition of new references to support minor statements. Dr Schmitt emphasised that the Terrestrial Manual is not intended to provide comprehensive reviews of the literature, but rather to provide key, up-to-date references as an entry point to the literature for those who wish to study further.

Dr Schmitt pointed out that the batch of draft chapters included Chapter 1.1.8 Principles of veterinary vaccine production and Chapter 2.7.2 Minimum requirements for the production and quality control of vaccines. These chapters had been amended in accordance with the decision to eliminate references to the target animal batch safety test in the Terrestrial Manual in situations where other quality control measures are in place. Once adopted, the following sentence would be included in other relevant chapters when they are updated: “Safety tests in target animals are not required by many Regulatory Authorities for the release of each batch or serial. Where required, standard procedures are generally conducted using fewer animals than are used in the safety tests required for licensing.”
The Commission was updated on the outcome of a Technical Workshop for Thermotolerant Peste des Petits Ruminants Vaccines jointly hosted by OIE and FAO. The Commission agreed that it would be appropriate to include additional guidance for characterising thermotolerance properties of vaccines, and to highlight the importance of maintaining and monitoring the required cold chain temperatures during storage and transport. To this end, the Commission proposed text for inclusion in Terrestrial Manual Chapter 1.1.8 Principles for Veterinary Vaccine Production, which was already being circulated to Member Countries in the 2017/2018 review cycle.

Dr Schmitt reminded the Assembly that an ad hoc Group had updated the chapter on rabies, incorporating newly developed validated tests, deleting obsolete tests and updating the sections on oral vaccination of dogs and manufacturing methods. The chapter was circulated a second time after the Commission’s February meeting. Following comments received from the European Union, the Commission, in consultation with the ten OIE Reference Laboratories for rabies, proposed amendments to Table 1 (deletion of the RIAD test [rabies immunoperoxidase antigen detection] as it requires further validation; deletion of the Sellers staining as it is no longer recommended; downgrading of the MIT [mouse inoculation test] from +++ to +, for animal welfare reasons; and reinstating of the ranking “not applicable” for the ELISA for the purpose “Individual animal freedom from infection prior to movement”). Amendments were also made to the text to clarify that the ELISA is not applicable for testing for international movement of animals or trade.

The revised chapters, with these amendments, were presented to the Assembly for adoption. Once adopted, the chapters will be published on the OIE website.

At its meeting in September 2017, the Commission reviewed and accepted for inclusion in the Terrestrial Manual a standard operating procedure (SOP) for the preparation of antigen for the complement fixation test for dourine diagnosis, along with an SOP for the maintenance and cryo-preservation of Trypanosoma equiperdum strains. The SOPs were provided to the experts updating the chapter, which is scheduled to be included in the 2018/2019 review cycle.

Dr Schmitt reminded the Assembly that at the last General Session, it was agreed to keep reference to the use of the bovine tongue epithelium method in the production of FMD vaccine in the vaccine section of the foot and mouth disease (FMD) chapter pending further consideration. Dr Schmitt pointed out that vaccine manufacturing requires strict quality control measures be followed and certifying the purity of source materials when producing FMD vaccine using cattle tongue epithelium may present a real challenge. The Commission felt that FMD vaccine manufactures using epithelium cells should prove that the cells comply with the same quality control requirements as alternative source materials, e.g. cell lines. In addition, the use of epithelium cells can lead to increased levels of non-structural proteins in vaccinated animals impairing the FMD surveillance in a vaccinated population. The Commission reaffirmed its opinion that the method cannot be recommended in an OIE Standards text and agreed to retain the text for 3 more years. At the General Session in 2020, the text would be proposed for deletion from the chapter.

Dr Schmitt informed the Assembly that the Commission had reviewed and accepted the final technical report of the validation study submitted for a real-time reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction for equine influenza. The Commission proposed that the Terrestrial Manual chapter be updated to include the primer sets and cycling parameters, and reviewed by all the OIE Reference Laboratories for equine influenza.

The Commission also decided to expand the title of Chapter 2.9.4 Cysticercosis to: Cysticercosis (including infection with Taenia solium) and to ask the experts from Cystinet to review and update the whole chapter and in particular to expand the section on T. solium (cysticercosis caused by Taenia solium is an OIE listed disease).
During the past year, the Commission further discussed and finalised the standard operating procedures (SOPs) document entitled: *Procedures for the designation of OIE Collaborating Centres*, an undertaking that had begun in February 2017 and that had been carried out in collaboration with the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission.

First, the Commission, in consultation with the three other OIE Specialist Commissions, identified six main topics, each with a number of specific focus areas (see Annex 3 of Doc. 86 SG/12/CS2 A). All future Collaborating Centre applicants will choose their area of expertise from this list. Existing Collaborating Centres will be asked where their expertise lies within this list, bearing in mind it may be in more than one area. In this way and in the near future, there will only be OIE Collaborating Centres for these defined topics of strategic interest to the OIE, creating greater opportunities for collaboration and networking and improving their support offered to the OIE and its Member Countries. The Commission also agreed that Collaborating Centres should be designated for a fixed 5-year term period with review at the end of the term.

Five performance criteria for Collaborating Centre evaluations were proposed:

i) lack of submission of an annual report;

ii) no response to or progress on specific collaboration projects;

iii) a pattern revealing lack of activity;

iv) no response to requests from the OIE Headquarters for scientific expertise (e.g. inquiry of technical advice from OIE Member Countries, revision of OIE Standards, etc.).

v) noncompliance with administrative obligations relating to transparency and confidentiality (e.g. not renewing the potential conflict of interests declaration or providing a confidentiality undertaking [cf. SOP Appendices 2 and 3]).

Point ii refers to the possibility for new applicants to develop a specific proposal for collaboration in one of the focus areas and based on their specialty, aligned with the OIE Strategic Plan.

Any OIE Collaborating Centre scoring negatively when measured against any one of these points could be deemed to be failing to fulfil the Terms of Reference and could progress down the pathway towards potential de-listing.

The document also includes details of the procedure that will be followed should a Collaborating Centre fail to submit an annual report. Collaborating Centres may be proposed for delisting if the need for the specific topic activities is no longer required. Such proposals would be submitted to the Council and the Regional Commission and must finally be adopted by Resolution of the Assembly.

Finally, the document states that at the end of the 5-year period, a letter will be sent from the Director General of the OIE requesting a summary of the achievements of the past 5 years and a proposal for the activities for the forthcoming 5 years.

The SOP document was endorsed by the other three OIE Specialist Commissions and the OIE Council and was annexed to the report of the February 2018 meeting (Annex 4 of Doc. 86 SG/12/CS2 B). The President presented it to the Assembly for adoption. Once adopted, the SOPs would be made available on the OIE website.

Following review of the dossiers, the Commission recommended acceptance of five new applications for OIE Reference Laboratory status.
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 twelve new experts are available in the reports of the meetings. These experts had been endorsed by the Council on behalf of the Assembly.

Regarding OIE Laboratory Twinning, as of January 2018, 43 projects have been completed, 34 projects are underway and 7 are awaiting funding before beginning. Demand and interest in OIE Laboratory Twinning remained high.

Annual reports were received from 227 out of 228 Reference Laboratories and from 49 out of 49 Collaborating Centres all working in the terrestrial animal field. For the institute that had not submitted an annual report, and in accordance with Articles 8 and 9 of the Internal Rules for Reference Centres, and of the adopted SOPs for Reference Laboratories, a letter had been sent to the Delegate of the country hosting the Reference Laboratory regarding maintaining the OIE Reference Laboratory status. A detailed analysis of the reported activities was included in the report of the February meeting of the Commission (page 4). Annual reports would be made available on line in the near future.

Dr Schmitt reminded the Delegates that in the accordance with the SOPs adopted last May, laboratories that had not achieved accreditation to ISO 17025 or equivalent quality management system would have their OIE Reference Laboratory status suspended, with the possibility to reinstate it within two years should they achieve accreditation in that time. Laboratories that have still not achieved accreditation two years after suspension, would have to re-apply for OIE Reference Laboratory status, once accreditation is achieved.

The Commission identified 17 laboratories for suspension because they were not yet accredited. Three requested immediate withdrawal from the list as they did not intend to seek accreditation to ISO 17025 or equivalent.

Eleven laboratories had not submitted a signed confidentiality undertaking and were reminded of this obligation.

As a result of the application of the SOPs, there would be gaps in the diseases covered by the OIE Reference Laboratory network and Dr Schmitt invited applications from Member Countries where expertise exists.

73. Past ad hoc Group meetings

The ad hoc Group on the OIE Terrestrial Manual chapter on Rabies had thoroughly updated the chapter, in particular incorporating newly developed validated tests in Section B. Diagnostic techniques, and deleting obsolete tests or tests no longer in use, and including oral vaccination of dogs and manufacturing methods for such vaccines in Section C. Requirement for vaccines. The updated chapter is among the chapters proposed for adoption.

Similarly, the ad hoc Group on Transport of Biological Materials thoroughly updated the Terrestrial Manual chapter, which is also among the chapters proposed for adoption.

The ad hoc Group on High Throughput Sequencing and Bioinformatics and Computational Genomics (HTS-BCG) had advanced the project to develop an OIE Genomic Platform: the OIE submitted a preliminary application for funding for the pilot phase of the project. The objective of the pilot phase is to test the core system functionalities and sequence data exchange between the OIE, OIE Reference Laboratories and OIE Focal Points. The application has been made in partnership with the OIE Collaborating Centre for Viral Genomics and Bioinformatics (Centre for Viral Research, University of Glasgow, United Kingdom).
The Commission endorsed the draft of the OIE Guidelines for the Establishment, Operation and Networking of Veterinary Biobanks, prepared by the OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Biologicals Biobank (Brescia, Italy), the hosting organisation of the future OIE Virtual Biobank. The Commission also endorsed the first draft proposal for the pilot phase of the project, the first step of which included the draft of the full project proposal with a project governance model.

Regarding the ad hoc Group on Replacement International Standard Bovine Tuberculin, the Commission was updated on the progress that had been made with the project.

74. Proposed ad hoc Groups

To further progress the project to develop an OIE Genomic Platform, the need to convene two ad hoc Groups has been identified: one on the definition of business processes, operations and main technical specifications of the OIE platform and the second on the development of sub-modules for the diseases that have been selected for the pilot phase of the OIE platform project.

75. International standardisation/harmonisation

a) Standardisation programme – progress on developing guidelines for the preparation and validation of International Reference Standards for Polymerase Chain Reaction assays

The Commission reviewed and endorsed the document International Reference Standards for Polymerase Chain Reaction assays, which was annexed to the report of the February 2018 meeting (Annex 5 of Doc. 86 SG/12/CS2 B). The document will be made available online.

b) Project to extend the list of OIE-approved reference reagents

During the past year, an OIE Reference Laboratory for avian influenza and Newcastle disease accepted to undertake an inter-laboratory proficiency test on sera with two other OIE Reference Laboratories, which would meet the Commission’s requirement for the inclusion of standard reference sera in the list of OIE-approved International standard sera. An OIE Reference Laboratory for Trichinellosis provided comprehensive information on a set of reference sera for Trichinella detection. The Commission invited the OIE Reference Laboratory to liaise with the other OIE Reference Laboratory for Trichinellosis with the aim of organising a proficiency test and endorsing the sera as OIE-approved International Reference Standards.

The Commission reviewed the final report of the EDQM4 project to establish a biological reference preparation to allow testing of equine influenza (EI) vaccines for compliance with the recommendations of the EI Expert Surveillance Panel on vaccine strains, and decided to include the reagent in the list of OIE-approved international standard reagents.

c) OIE Register of diagnostic kits

The Assembly was informed that according to the OIE procedure for the registration of diagnostic kits, each kit included in the OIE Register must have its registration renewed every 5 years. Four diagnostic kits had reached the end of the 5-year term in 2018. In accordance with protocol, the kit manufacturers had been contacted to

4 EDQM: European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines
indicate whether they wished to maintain the same purposes for which their kit had been certified as validated or to add new purposes. The OIE experts for the pathogens targeted by the kits had also been contacted and asked their opinion on the need for a new evaluation of the purposes for which the kit had been certified as validated. Based on this information, the Commission proposed to renew the registration of the kits in the OIE register for the same purposes and for 5 additional years.

76. **Liaison with other Commissions**

The Biological Standards Commission provided advice on a number of topics requested by the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and the Code Commission. The Commission collaborated with the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission on matters of mutual interest.

77. **Update on OFFLU – the joint OIE-FAO network of expertise on animal influenza**

The OFFLU Secretariat held regular teleconferences among OIE and FAO Reference Centres and national laboratories to share updated situation reports and research data regarding the H5N8 and H7N9 avian influenza viruses. A significant amount of genetic and antigenic data on zoonotic avian influenza was shared with WHO at the February and September 2017 vaccine composition meetings. Sequence data for 589 H5, H7 and H9 viruses and antigenic data for 52 viruses were contributed by animal health laboratories in 36 countries representing Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas. The OFFLU Applied Epidemiology Group met at the FAO Headquarters from 28 to 30 June 2017 to finalise the Terms of Reference and outline a work plan for the integrated risk assessment and management of avian influenza. The Australian Animal Health Laboratory, Geelong, coordinated the annual OFFLU proficiency testing exercise among the ten OIE-FAO Reference Centres using 15 avian influenza (AI) inactivated panel samples originating from Australia or Asian regions. The exercise provided an opportunity for the participating laboratories to test for strains of AI not usually encountered, and to fine tune their capability. OFFLU experts updated a guidance document that provides information regarding amino acid sequences at the influenza A virus cleavage sites for assistance in differentiation of low pathogenicity and high pathogenicity AI viruses through molecular analyses. The document has been referred to in the OIE Terrestrial Manual chapter on AI.

The OFFLU swine influenza experts developed a guidance document to facilitate collection of specimens from swine for detection of influenza A virus by molecular assays or viral isolation. An international project for validation of real-time RT-PCR diagnostic assays for equine influenza in horses was completed in December 2017.

78. The President of the Assembly thanked Dr Schmitt for her comprehensive presentation and opened the floor for discussion.

79. Australia thanked Dr Schmitt and congratulated her for the medal she received earlier in the General Session. The Delegate had two points to make. The first was on Chapter 2.4.15. Theileriosis: he requested that Australia be removed from the sentence in the chapter’s summary “Tick-transmitted *Theileria* parasites of cattle are a major constraint to the improvement of the livestock industry in large parts of Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia and New Zealand”. He stated that the sentence over emphasised the disease severity in Australia where the disease is of low importance.

Regarding his second point, Australia did not support the inclusion of melioidosis in the Chapter 2.5.11 Glanders and melioidosis. Australia felt this approach was confusing and makes the Terrestrial Manual more difficult to use. As the chapter originally only covered glanders, it focused mainly on horses, which detracts from the importance of melioidosis in other and more epidemiologically important animals, such as ruminants. The chapter also did not cover any specific diagnostic techniques for melioidosis. Due to the approach taken, the chapter switched frequently between the organisms. It was often not clear when the information referred to *Burkholderia mallei* or *B. pseudomallei*. Australia understands that the Terrestrial Manual covers several diseases of global importance that are not OIE listed.
If melioidosis is deemed to be of sufficient importance to be included in the Terrestrial Manual, it would be more appropriate to include a separate Terrestrial Manual chapter on melioidosis. Nevertheless Australia supported the adoption of the chapter but requested that the comments be taken into consideration.

80. New Zealand supported Australia’s comments on theileriosis and requested that New Zealand also be removed from the sentence mentioned by Australia.

81. Namibia congratulated Dr Schmitt for the comprehensive report. Namibia observed that the distribution of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres across the OIE regions was not uniform and many endemic countries did not have ready access to Reference Laboratories. This presents a challenge that could be addressed by a strategic plan to upgrade laboratories in certain regions to become OIE Reference Laboratories and thus improve access to local resources.

82. Argentina, speaking on behalf of the OIE Americas Region, thanked Dr Schmitt and supported the adoption of Chapter 2.5.11. Glanders and melioidosis. Due to the low specificity of existing diagnostic tests for this disease, Panaftosa\(^5\) has developed an ELISA for \(B. mallei\) and this test is currently used by Member States of MERCOSUR\(^6\). With this in mind, Argentina requested the OIE to work with Panaftosa to evaluate and possibly include this new test in the Terrestrial Manual.

83. The representative of PAHO\(^7\) informed the Assembly that the validation dossier for the ELISA referred to by Argentina was available on line. The test was currently used as a screening test in combination with western blot for confirmation.

84. France, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the European Union, thanked and expressed gratitude to the Commission for its continual efforts to modernise and update the Terrestrial Manual. The EU\(^8\) would like to continue its technical support to the OIE. Regarding the updated chapters of the Terrestrial Manual submitted to the Assembly this year for adoption, the EU thanked the Commission for taking into account its comments including the most recent ones concerning Chapter 2.1.17 Rabies. The EU fully supported adoption of these chapters.

85. Canada, speaking on behalf of the QUADS countries (Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States of America), thanked Dr Schmitt for her report and commended the Commission for its excellent work of revising and improving the Terrestrial Manual and building the network of scientific expertise for the Member Countries of the OIE. To improve the transparency of the revision process and to harmonise with the Codes and the Aquatic Manual, Canada requested that the OIE consider appending the draft chapters to the reports of the Commission’s meetings. This would ease consultation with experts.

86. Thailand thanked the Commission for its excellent work, particularly the new procedures for designation of OIE Reference Centres, which provide clear guidelines for applicants. Thailand supported the OIE procedure for registration of diagnostic kits as it helps Member Countries to choose appropriate kits for the control and eradication of animal diseases. Thailand thanked the OIE for supporting the laboratory twinning project between Thailand and Australia for emerging infectious diseases. Finally, on the subject of rabies, Thailand stated that it was important to have reliable and accurate diagnostic kits and guidance for the diagnosis of individual animals.

\(^5\) Panaftosa: Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center
\(^6\) MERCOSUR: Southern Common Market
\(^7\) PAHO: Pan American Health Organization:
\(^8\) EU: European Union
Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the 54 Member States of the African Union, congratulated Dr Schmitt on her award and the Commission for its report. Zimbabwe supported the EU comments on adoption of the *Terrestrial Manual* chapters, especially the chapter on rabies.

Iran recognised the potential impact of BSE on international meat trade and stressed the fact that there are no OIE Reference Laboratories for this disease in the Middle East. Iran suggested that laboratories in this region should be encouraged to submit applications to the OIE for designation of OIE Reference Laboratories for BSE.

In reply to Australia’s comments on chapters 2.4.15. and 2.5.11., Dr Schmitt stated that it would be appropriate for these issues to be considered by the Commission. In reply to Namibia, Dr Schmitt agreed that the Reference Laboratories were not evenly distributed and there were under-represented areas. The OIE was taking steps to address this through laboratory twinning projects and could further develop and target this strategy. In reply to Argentina, Dr Schmitt agreed that the new Commission would work with Panaftosa and would evaluate the validation dossier with a view to including the test in the *Terrestrial Manual*. Dr Schmitt agreed with Canada’s proposal regarding appending the chapters to the Commission’s report, but recognised that this was a logistical issue for consideration by the OIE. In reply to Thailand, Dr Schmitt again suggested that the Commission could address the issue of the availability of diagnostic kits for rabies. Finally, Dr Schmitt supported the comment from Iran that it would be useful to designate an OIE Reference Laboratory for BSE in the Middle East and would welcome applications.

In response to Argentina regarding glanders, Dr Matthew Stone clarified that the OIE had received the report from Panaftosa, but after the February meeting of the Commission. He reminded the Assembly that the OIE was currently working with IFAH\(^9\) and FEI\(^10\), on a number of projects for the development of improved diagnostic tools for certain equine diseases. Two scientific reports would be available for review by the Commission.

Argentina thanked Dr Schmitt for her presentation and congratulated the Commission on its excellent work. Regarding the production method for FMD vaccines using bovine tongue epithelium, Argentina would be submitting a report to the OIE to be considered by the Commission. The report described the general processes of vaccine production based on good manufacturing practices, with special emphasis on the control for potential contaminants and purity of the final product (i.e. absence of non-structural proteins).

Dr Schmitt replied that the Commission would welcome and review any report submitted by Argentina on this FMD vaccine production method.

In conclusion, as Dr Schmitt was nearing the end of her mandate as President of the Biological Standards Commission, the Director General wished to thank her for the quality of the work carried out by the Commission under her presidency. She stressed that the rigour with which the procedures had been revised and the dossiers examined had significantly contributed to enhancing the scientific excellence that the OIE stands for. The Director General presented her with a gift of appreciation on behalf of the Organisation and its Members. The Assembly warmly applauded Dr Schmitt.

The Assembly noted the Report of the Biological Standards Commission.

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\(^9\) IFAH: International Federation of Horse Racing Authorities

\(^10\) FEI: Fédération Équestre Internationale
Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 14
Amendments to the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals

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

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 16
Designation of OIE Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animal diseases

96. 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. 17
Suspension of OIE Reference Laboratory status for terrestrial animal diseases

97. 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
Procedures for the designation of OIE Collaborating Centres

98. 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.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 19
Register of diagnostic tests validated and certified by the OIE

99. 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.

Presentation of the OIE Observatory project in collaboration with the OECD and Presentations by International Organisations having an Agreement with the OIE (Panel Discussion)

100. Dr Sen Sovann (Cambodia) chaired the panel dedicated to “Establishing trust in the multilateral trade system through transparency and international standards implementation monitoring” in connection with the OIE Observatory on the implementation of OIE standards. He reminded the Assembly that transparency was increasingly demanded by society and was of significant concern at national and international levels, specifically in international trade activities, which should rely on the implementation of international standards.

101. Dr Sen introduced the participants from the WTO\textsuperscript{11}, the Codex Alimentarius Commission, FAO\textsuperscript{12}, WHO\textsuperscript{13} and the World Bank. He invited all the participants to make a brief presentation of their respective Organisation’s approach to the topic of the Panel discussion, before a short presentation by the OECD\textsuperscript{14} and OIE on the OIE Observatory on the implementation of OIE standards. He explained that these two presentations would be followed by the Panel discussion.

\textsuperscript{11} WTO: World Trade Organization
\textsuperscript{12} FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
\textsuperscript{13} WHO: World Health Organization
\textsuperscript{14} OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
World Trade Organization

102. Mr Rolanco Alcala, Economic Affairs Officer at the WTO, reminded the Assembly that transparency is one of the fundamental cross-cutting principles of the WTO Agreements, including the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement). With respect to transparency, the legal obligation of WTO Members is to notify proposed new or modified SPS measures when these deviate from the relevant international standards explicitly recognised by the SPS Agreement, including those of the OIE. He highlighted that the SPS Agreement promotes the use of OIE standards to achieve harmonised SPS measures across the globe and that the SPS Committee addresses standing agenda items on monitoring the use of international standards, whereby WTO members can identify trade issues related to the use or non-use of a sanitary or phytosanitary international standard, as well as on information sharing by the OIE to provide updates on new or modified international standards. He stressed that WTO Members’ reliance on international standards as a basis for their SPS measures facilitates safe trade, as products conforming to the same standards may be trusted and accepted by buyers more widely. In conclusion, he mentioned that the WTO supports the interplay of transparency and implementation of international standards for safe and smooth trade.

Codex Alimentarius Commission

103. Ms Hilde Kruse, representative of the Secretariat of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), briefly reminded the Assembly of the mandate of the Codex and its constituency and stated that Codex food standards and related texts are science-based and aimed at protecting consumer health and ensuring fair practices in the food trade. She stressed that the procedures for preparing Codex standards are open and transparent and that the publication of the Codex Alimentarius is intended to guide and promote the elaboration and establishment of definitions and requirements for foods and to assist in their harmonisation, thereby facilitating international trade. While being recommendations for voluntary application by Codex members, Codex standards serve in many cases as a basis for national legislation. She stressed the importance of Codex standards by reminding the Assembly that the reference made to Codex standards in the SPS Agreement meant that Codex has far reaching implications for resolving trade disputes and that WTO members who wish to apply stricter food safety measures than those set by Codex may be required to justify these measures scientifically.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

104. Dr Berhe Tekola, Director of the Animal Production and Health Division of the FAO, highlighted the importance of trust in the effective management of the SPS Agreement, essential for sustainable use of agricultural resources, necessary for food security and necessary for preventing food chain emergencies. He pointed out that capacity building in the SPS field is key to the achievement of all five of the FAO’s Strategic Objectives, which include meeting international standards, and that FAO invests greatly in implementing and developing a range of tools that enable national and regional actors to implement safe multilateral trade systems, meet Codex standards, develop coherent regulatory platforms and further promote trust and equity as opposed to protectionism or commodity dumping. He called for strengthened coordination at national and international level. Given the significant challenges raised by SPS-related issues for market competitiveness in many developing countries, he stated that effective SPS management through carefully planned
capacity development facilitates trade and countries should therefore actively seek such opportunities. In conclusion, he mentioned that FAO’s commitment to the Codex process, as well as its support to the OIE and development platforms, are people-centric and promote equity among nations, gender, and advancement to meet the targets set out in the 2030 agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

World Health Organization

105. Ms Catherine Mulholland, Programme Administrator at WHO, reminded the Assembly that every year, almost 1 in 10 people fall ill from eating contaminated food and 420,000 die as a result. She highlighted that international food safety standards established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission are one important way of combatting food-borne diseases and reducing this disease burden around the world. She stressed that transparency is a key guiding principle throughout the entire process of development of Codex standards and builds trust among countries. She pointed out that participation in standard-setting processes promoted transparency and reminded the Assembly that FAO and WHO created the Codex Trust Fund to ensure that all countries can be active partners in setting Codex standards. She stressed that WHO contributes to transparency and building trust between countries by sharing data and information and she provided a few examples, namely the joint FAO/WHO International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN), the Global Environment Monitoring System/Food database, Total Diet Studies and the International Health Regulations, all of which operate in an open and transparent way and encourage data-sharing between countries. She mentioned that scientific data and information and international food safety standards are global public goods that depend on transparent and objective processes and stressed that is the duty and also a unique mandate of international organisations such as WHO and the OIE to provide their members with the necessary tools to build trust, improve transparency and promote the use of international standards.

World Bank

106. Dr Caroline Planté, Senior Livestock Specialist at the World Bank, thanked the OIE for the opportunity to participate in the panel discussion.

107. After reiterating the mandate of the World Bank to fight extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity, she mentioned that transparency was a core principle of various policies at the World Bank Group. She stated that the World Bank’s policy on information disclosure had evolved during the past years, adding more documents to the list of information that the organisation could disclose, leading to the “Open Access Policy” in 2010. She suggested that, for the purposes of its Observatory project, the OIE bear in mind the need to strike a balance between maximising the public’s access to information and respecting the confidentiality of information. She argued that the World Bank supported countries to build better governance, to facilitate private sector growth and build citizen trust in government. More specifically, for the animal health sector, she highlighted that it was crucial to build a system based on a transparent and harmonised evaluation, which explained why the OIE PVS Pathway continues to be very pertinent to the World Bank’s investments in animal health. In conclusion, she underlined the evolution of global trade during the past decades, noting the increasing share of South–South trade while North–North trade is declining, and reminded the Assembly that the World Bank remained committed to supporting middle-income countries looking to implement standards and transparency in this process.
Presentation of the OIE Observatory project in collaboration with the OECD

108. Dr Sen invited Ms Céline Kauffmann from the OECD to express her Organisation’s approach to good regulatory practices and international regulatory cooperation. Dr Karen Bucher, project manager within the OIE Standards Department, was then invited to present the OIE’s Observatory project on the implementation of OIE international standards.

Presentation by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

109. Ms Kauffmann, Deputy Head of the Regulatory Policy Division at the OECD, thanked the OIE and its Director General for the invitation. She indicated that the Regulatory Policy Committee of the OECD has been working for the past 25 years on good regulatory processes and practices. This work led in 2012 to the publication of the OECD Recommendation on Regulatory Policy and Governance, a set of 12 principles that highlight the importance of transparent, evidence- and risk-based rule-making. The Recommendation also recognises the importance of considering international standards in regulatory activity and, more generally, of cooperation among countries on regulatory matters to avoid that unnecessary regulatory divergences become a burden on trade and other economic activity. In line with the Recommendation, the OECD has also established a voluntary platform of more than 45 international organisations, including the OIE, to foster collective action to promote greater quality, effectiveness and impact of international rule-making. Work among international organisations focuses on the transparency, evidence-based character and coordination of international norms and standards.

Presentation on the OIE Observatory

110. Dr Bucher stressed that the Observatory project offers the opportunity for both Organisations, the OIE and the OECD, to work together in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2016.

Dr Bucher recalled that countries are facing a number of challenges associated with the national implementation of OIE standards, particularly when making decisions on the importation of animals and animal products. The Technical Item pointed out the need to build trust, increase transparency and encourage Member Countries to implement OIE standards. Moreover, while countries need to consider OIE standards more systematically in their national legislation and decision making, they also need assurance that the OIE standards are continuously relevant and fit for purpose.

Monitoring the implementation of standards, analysing the difficulties and identifying solutions could be a great contribution to this purpose. The OIE Observatory will be a mechanism collecting data to determine the effectiveness and practicability of OIE standards and finally to ensure that they are used and that they achieve their objectives. The expected outcome would be more effective implementation of OIE standards and helping the OIE to develop a more strategic focus to its capacity-building activities.

The OIE Observatory is expected to contribute to the progressive international harmonisation of national sanitary rules applied to international trade. This will result in benefits to governments, the private sector and civil society, and in this way help to establish trust in the multilateral trade system.

The OIE seeks the support of Member Countries to implement such a project and to encourage countries to be transparent with their national sanitary system through which OIE standards are implemented. The engagement with stakeholders, at both national and international level, can bring useful insights in the evaluation of OIE standards.
Discussion

111. Dr Sen thanked all the participants for their presentations and explained that he would ask each of them a question before giving the floor to Delegates.

112. Dr Sen asked the representative of WTO, Mr Alcala, how transparency, in the framework of the WTO, contributed to establishing trust between trading partners.

113. Mr Alcala reminded the Assembly that in 1999 the WTO established SPS provisional procedures, which became permanent in 2006, to monitor the implementation of standards, encouraging members to submit issues arising from the non-use, non-application or inappropriateness of a standard. WTO members, while recognising the need for implementation of standards, have not developed further monitoring tools. Mr Alcala therefore welcomed the OIE Observatory as it will prove useful in identifying challenges to the implementation of standards and ways to overcome them in the animal health sector, thereby also supporting the OIE’s process for regular revision of standards by identifying topics to revise. He recalled the data collection from the Technical Item questionnaire and Dr Kahn’s suggestion that it could serve as a good first step for the Observatory. He noted that, based on the WTO’s experience, key issues would include defining what will be measured, i.e. what implementation means, the nature and quantity of the compiled data, as well as the format and frequency in which it would be collected and the level of availability to the public.

114. Dr Sen then asked the representative of Codex, Ms Kruse, to describe the way Codex engages its members and stakeholders to promote and encourage transparency, in order to support implementation of its science-based standards.

115. In response, Ms Kruse stressed that the basis for wider engagement rested on a transparent process and described some ways in which Codex increases transparency, from the use of scientific data as the basis for developing standards to the possibility for stakeholders to comment at different steps. She also noted the inclusion, in regional coordination meetings, of an agenda item on the use of Codex standards in the region, as well as the translation of standards in the six official languages of Codex as important means to improve openness of the process. She also highlighted the use of tools such as an online platform to promote information sharing (currently under development), the possibility for online meeting participation and commenting to increase participation in working groups as well as the continuous development of the Codex website as significant initiatives to provide a more transparent standard-setting process.

116. Dr Sen then asked Ms Mulholland, the representative of WHO, in reference to her introductory statement, to describe what WHO saw as the main benefits and challenges related to transparency for the international community and members individually.

Ms Mulholland noted the interesting presentations from the OECD and the OIE, as well as the last slide from the OIE on the benefits of the monitoring of the implementation of standards, which captured what could be expected from the Observatory project. She stressed that transparency offered a level playing field to all and argued that if more information were available, sharing would increase and improve transparency. She mentioned that transparency helped international organisations but especially countries to better understand what is expected of/from them and what they can expect from others. She highlighted that another benefit of transparency was the access to the information and rationale behind standards, especially robust scientific data, which provided countries with the confidence that these standards would protect health within and beyond their boundaries. Ultimately, this will increase a country’s sense of ownership and willingness to implement international standards. She pointed out that transparency required time – to
increase confidence and trust between countries – and in which it is vital to invest. She also noted the importance of inclusiveness to ensure that standards are truly globally relevant and applicable in many different situations. She warned the OIE that there could be a challenge around accessibility of information as there could be a reluctance on the part of countries to provide open information. She noted that the way the OIE will address these challenges, including those linked to the confidentiality of information, will constitute an excellent learning opportunity for Codex and other organisations. She concluded that in the age of big data and data mining, new technology will need to be used at the service of transparent standard-setting activities.

117. Dr Sen then asked the representative of FAO, Mr Tekola, what were, from FAO’s perspective, the main benefits and challenges related to achieving a stronger commitment to transparency.

Mr Tekola first stressed that the Observatory project was a necessary initiative as regulations were not effective without implementation. He further argued that the project required support from all actors benefiting from improved implementation of standards, including partner organisations, policy makers, Delegates as well as actors working in the field, at the regional or sub-regional level. He drew attention to the fact that communication was key to promote the Observatory project and that scaling up of good practices regionally was a priority. He further emphasised that as a key partner of the OIE, the FAO would benefit from a stronger commitment to transparency through guaranteed safer trade and food safety requirements, enhanced animal and public health initiatives as well as quality data in WAHIS to track the source of diseases. He also outlined how transparency brought about increased income at the level of a country but also of its population and, most importantly, trust among producers, countries and international organisations. He acknowledged that challenges remained in the lack of stakeholder awareness as well as their resistance to change and reluctance to provide data, which requires efforts in advocacy. On this topic, he noted the relevance of the OIE’s continuous training programme despite the challenge of the important turnover of OIE Delegates. He concluded that these issues, as well as inadequate and/or non-existent standards, especially at the national level, trade bans and other non-transparent practices, ultimately lead to the occurrence of unmanageable disease outbreaks and needed to be addressed.

118. Dr Sen then asked Dr Planté, the representative of the World Bank, how international organisations could work together to improve transparency across the multilateral system and achieve the sustainable development goals.

In response, Dr Planté indicated that the discussions around the Technical Item and this Panel were strong indicators of the necessity to understand the current constraints faced by countries in the implementation of standards, for which the Observatory project offered a promising approach. She echoed the comments made regarding the concerns raised about the nature of the data it would bring and the way it would be collected and disseminated, underlining the importance of reaching an agreement on the balance between transparency and confidentiality. She mentioned the challenge, in a world of big data, to guarantee robust sources of information and the production of focused, relevant data. In conclusion, she indicated the World Bank’s interest in additional sources of solid, evidence-based information, which could be used to ensure effective dialogue at the governmental level including to secure financial support of initiatives, and expressed the wish for the World Bank to participate further in the Observatory project.

119. Dr Sen then invited the Delegates to take the floor.
Bangladesh congratulated the OIE for the Observatory project initiative and suggested that the OIE involve policy makers and politicians to increase the project’s effectiveness. Bangladesh called for a more direct relation between the OIE, responsible for setting standards in products of animal origin, and the Codex Alimentarius, responsible for food standards, in order to strengthen standard setting for food of animal origin and to preserve public health.

In response, the representative of Codex mentioned the excellent relationship between Codex and the OIE, the participation of both Organisations in each other’s meetings and the Tripartite relationship (OIE, WHO, FAO). She noted the challenges of ‘One Health’ and agreed upon the need for intersectoral collaboration, and expressed Codex’s interest in the Observatory project.

Argentina thanked the OIE for launching the initiative of the Observatory project, given its objective to strengthen the implementation of standards and emphasise the recognition of official status. It was stressed that this project would enable the OIE to identify challenges such as harmonisation of standards and barriers to their implementation. Argentina underlined that this project was particularly relevant in the opportunity it provided to review and correct issues of representativity and applicability of standards, which were recognised during this Panel as necessary factors to improving the implementation and use of OIE Standards. Regarding the identified challenge of collection and dissemination of information, Argentina recommended that the OIE promote active participation in all regions to ensure representativity of results.

Germany thanked the OIE for the very instructive session complementary to Dr Kahn’s presentation. Germany stressed that the Observatory project is very challenging because not only does it require collecting information, it also requires a variety of expertise for its implementation. Germany asked Members to take this into account during discussions on this project and to support its implementation.

In conclusion, the Director General emphasised that monitoring the application of international standards is a complex subject and she reminded the Assembly that the Observatory project is a major undertaking that forms part of a long-term vision. She emphasised that the purpose of this first presentation of the project was to give the Assembly a preview of the project without covering all of its components, on which work still needed to be done. Thus, in addition to technical issues relating to the collection and processing of information, a field in which the OIE has experience with the WAHIS platform, it will also be necessary to examine issues relating to the IT component, legal aspects defining the conditions governing relations between the OIE and the Member Countries, and finally governance, for which a specific structure dedicated to the project will need to be defined. These elements will be presented to the Assembly in due course.

In conclusion, Dr Sen thanked all the participants and stressed that there was a strong agreement on the need to monitor the implementation of international standards in order to identify constraints and be able to offer solutions. He mentioned that the OIE Observatory project was an excellent initiative that will contribute to progressive international harmonisation and to establishing trust in the multilateral trade system. He underlined that availability and accessibility of key information were the challenges to monitoring the implementation of standards and that transparency was essential.
Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Group (contd)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

126. Dr Gideon Brückner, President of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission), summarised the activities of the Scientific Commission, including the outcomes of the regular Scientific Commission meetings held in September 2017 and February 2018 (Docs 86 SG/12/CS3 A and B, respectively). 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 Country Status for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), African Horse Sickness (AHS), Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and Classical Swine Fever (CSF); the ad hoc Group on antimicrobial resistance; the ad hoc Group on Rabies to Review the Current Chapter in the Terrestrial Code; the ad hoc Group on Theileriosis; the ad hoc Group on Animal Health Surveillance; the ad hoc Group on Biological Threat Reduction in Relation to Specific Methodologies for Veterinary Services, Pertaining to the Investigation of Suspicious Biological Events; the ad hoc Group on alternatives for Surveillance for Demonstration of freedom from FMD and Recovery Periods; and the Working Group on Wildlife. Furthermore, one additional ad hoc Group meeting was convened to consider surveillance criteria for FMD relative to the recovery period following infection. Two additional ad hoc Groups were convened under the auspices of the Scientific Commission after the meeting in February 2018 of which the reports have not yet been evaluated by the Scientific Commission, namely the ad hoc Group on African Animal Trypanosomoses and the ad hoc Group on Prioritisation of Diseases for which Vaccines could Reduce Antimicrobial use in Cattle, Sheep and Goats. While evaluation of the reports of the ad hoc Groups and consideration of their recommendations constituted the major activities of the Scientific Commission, much time was also dedicated to evaluating Member Country comments on draft or new chapters for the Terrestrial Code and to assessing annual confirmations and maintenance of OIE allocated Member Country disease status.

A total of 15 meetings of ad hoc Groups and the Working Group on Wildlife were convened during the year under the auspices of the Scientific Commission. All of these meetings were also attended by a representative from the Scientific Commission. During the February 2018 meeting 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 the integration of work and the sharing of information between the two Commissions.

127. The President of the Scientific Commission on behalf of the other Commission members and members of the ad hoc Groups and Working Group, expressed his appreciation for the support provided by Dr Monique Eloit, Director General, Dr Matthew Stone, Deputy Director General, International Standards and Science, and the staff at the Status and Science and New Technologies Departments at the OIE Headquarters. The excellent support and professional expertise provided by both Departments was noted with sincere appreciation as well as the intention and actions taken by the Director General to provide further assistance to harmonise and strengthen the activities of the Specialist Commissions. 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 valuable contributions, sharing of expertise and supporting role.

The President of the Scientific Commission thanked the President of the Assembly, the Director General, all the Delegates and the staff of the OIE Headquarters and Regional Representations for the privilege and pleasure to have served on the Scientific Commission for 12 years.
128. **Review of the Annual Work Programme**

During its meetings in September 2017 and February 2018, the Scientific Commission reviewed its working programme; the planning and Terms of Reference of the scheduled meetings of the Working Group on Wildlife and ad hoc Groups for the 2017–2018 period in support of the annual work programme of the Director General, the provisions of the Sixth Strategic Plan and the priorities of the Scientific Commission. The Scientific Commission incorporated issues raised by the Assembly during the 85th General Session relative to its work programme and priorities. These included: the revision of several chapters of the Terrestrial Code and Member Country comments on chapters in the Terrestrial Code. During a joint meeting with the Code Commission, it was agreed that the Chapter on BSE will be reviewed during the year by two separate ad hoc Groups addressing issues related to surveillance and risk analysis.

129. **Evaluation of Member Country Comments on draft/amended Chapters**

During both the September 2017 and February 2018 meetings of the Scientific Commission, substantial time was allocated to reviewing and considering Member Country comments on the draft or amended chapters in the Terrestrial Code circulated for comment by the Code Commission. These included comments on the following chapters: the Glossary; Chapter 4.3. Zoning and compartmentalisation; Draft Chapter 4.X on Vaccination; Draft Chapter 4.Y. on Management of outbreaks of listed diseases; Chapter 8.8. Infection with FMD virus; Article 8.16.2. Infection with rinderpest virus; Chapter 15.2. Infection with CSF virus; Chapter 11.9 Infection with lumpy skin disease (LSD) virus; Chapter 12.10. Infection with *Burkholderia mallei* (Glanders); Chapter 8.3. Infection with bluetongue virus; Chapter 1.4 Animal health surveillance; Draft Chapter 8.X. Infection with *Trypanosoma evansi* (non-equine surra); Chapter 6.7. Harmonisation of national antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes, Chapter 6.8. Monitoring of the quantities and usage patterns of antimicrobial agents used in food-producing animals, Chapter 12.3. Infection with *Trypanozoon* in equines; Chapter 11.12. on infection with *Theileria annulata*, *Theileria orientalis* and *Theileria parva*; Draft Chapter 14.X. Infection with *Theileria lestoquardi*, *Theileria luwenshuni* and *Theileria uilenbergi* and Chapter 15.1. Infection with African swine fever (ASF) virus.

The reviews conducted by the Scientific Commission were captured in the reports of the Scientific Commission as well as in annexes providing the detailed rationale explaining the view and recommendations of the Scientific Commission.

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

   a) **Ad hoc Group on Alternatives for Surveillance for Demonstration of Freedom from FMD and Recovery Periods**

During its September 2017 meeting, the Scientific Commission decided to consult the ad hoc Group on the Evaluation of FMD Status regarding the conclusions of the ad hoc Group on Alternatives for Surveillance for Demonstration of Freedom from FMD and Recovery Periods and the document that presented the advantages and disadvantages of the different options related to: i) the provisions on the waiting time requirements; ii) the provisions for the level of confidence; and iii) the method to be used for the assessment of the level of confidence.

The Scientific Commission noted that the two ad hoc Groups were in agreement with their preferred options and also agreed that a qualitative approach should first be developed through a separate questionnaire in the recovery section of the FMD questionnaire. This questionnaire (or checklist) should describe in detail the additional measures that could be implemented by Member Countries to provide a high level of
confidence in demonstrating freedom from FMD in a short period, along with the procedure for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of these measures. The Commission suggested that an ad hoc Group be convened to progress this matter by drafting such a questionnaire that could be further developed into a more quantitative assessment tool.

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

The Scientific Commission was updated on the activities that had been conducted since its previous meeting in the framework of the Global FMD Control Strategy and under the umbrella of the GF-TADs\textsuperscript{15}.

Three regional meetings were held. Tanzania hosted the Second Roadmap Meeting in southern Africa in September 2017. Jordan hosted the Fourth FMD Roadmap Meeting in the Middle East in October 2017, jointly organised with the PPR Roadmap Meeting. This joint meeting allowed the participants to easily identify the possible synergies between the two Global Strategies and their national programmes to control the two diseases. In addition, the First Epidemiology and Laboratory Networks meeting for West Eurasia was held in Georgia in September 2017. The West Eurasian networks nominated their leaders and co-leaders and developed their respective action plans.

These regular regional meetings supported the national and regional implementation of the FMD Global Control Strategy and monitoring of the progress made. The Commission was also informed that the GF-TADs Management Committee acknowledged the strong involvement of EuFMD\textsuperscript{16} in the implementation of the FMD Global Control Strategy and thus opened a seventh seat within the FMD Working Group. The FMD Working Group is now composed of three persons from the OIE, three from FAO and one from EuFMD.

Finally, the Scientific Commission acknowledged with appreciation that the GF-TADs FMD Working Group had learned from experience and had revised the FMD-PCP\textsuperscript{17} tool. The revised tool clarifies the PCP approach and the acceptance process of the PCP stages at the regional level and proposes an integrated path from Stage 0 of the PCP to OIE recognition of FMD freedom without vaccination. Note was taken of the main activities planned for 2018, in accordance with the 2017–2018 Action Plan, pending financial support.

c) 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. The representative of the network reported briefly on the evolution and the most significant events related to FMD that occurred globally in the past 12 months that were also included in the 2017 annual report on the activities of the OIE/FAO FMD network.

The Scientific Commission acknowledged the problems and knowledge gaps related to the quality control of vaccines for FMD virus in Africa and commended the proposal to develop an OIE twinning project between the Pirbright Institute and PANVAC\textsuperscript{18} to target quality control for vaccines. The Scientific Commission recognised the lack of surveillance in some regions, and emphasised the importance of timely reporting of outbreaks to the OIE. The Scientific Commission acknowledged the importance of sharing FMD virus information and commended the FMD Reference Laboratory Network for its efforts in supporting the FMD Global Control Strategy.

\textsuperscript{15} GF-TADs: Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases
\textsuperscript{16} EuFMD: European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease
\textsuperscript{17} PCP: Progressive control pathway
\textsuperscript{18} PANVAC: Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre of the African Union
The Scientific Commission acknowledged the role of the OIE/FAO FMD Reference Laboratory Network in supporting Member Countries in the implementation of the recommendations included in Resolution No. 30 on Foot and Mouth Disease Serotype C that was adopted at the General Session in May 2017.

131. **Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) Global Control and Eradication Strategy**

The President of the Scientific Commission informed the Delegates that the Scientific Commission had been regularly updated on the current status of the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy. The Scientific Commission took note that in 2017 the first round of PPR Regional Roadmap Meetings was finalised and, in parallel, the second round was launched with the organisation of meetings in four regions, namely East Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East and Central Africa. In addition to the roadmap meetings, two workshops on PPR vaccines were held, in Casablanca, Morocco and in Rome, Italy, in April and December 2017, respectively.

The Scientific Commission was also informed of the progress achieved with the Action Plan developed by the OIE to support the PPR Global Eradication Programme. The main actions planned for 2018, in addition to the continuation of the aforementioned activities, focus on the launch of the PPR Global Research and Expertise Network in Vienna, Austria, in 2018 and the organisation of the PPR Pledging Conference in Brussels, Belgium, in 2018. This Conference will be hosted by the European Commission and will benefit from the FAO/OIE Resource Mobilisation and Marketing Strategy endorsed in 2017. Note was taken of the first case of PPR reported in Burundi at the beginning of 2018. The Scientific Commission was informed that a joint FAO/OIE emergency response mission was deployed to provide support to the country.

132. **Rinderpest**

The first Regional Rinderpest Tabletop Exercise took place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 21 to 23 November 2017 and targeted African countries. It was organised by FAO in cooperation with AU-IBAR\(^\text{19}\) and the OIE to test the operability of the GRAP\(^\text{20}\), including the Operational Framework for the Rinderpest Vaccine Reserve, and gather inputs for its improvement. A second Regional Rinderpest Tabletop Exercise took place in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 13 to 16 March 2018, and targeted Asian countries.

The output of the Technical Expert Meeting on Criteria for Rinderpest Vaccine Manufacturers, which was held at the OIE Headquarters on 18 and 19 December 2017, was presented to the Scientific Commission for information. These criteria were presented to the Biological Standards Commission for comment and it was recommended that the criteria should not be so stringent that they could create an impediment to responses in the event of a rinderpest outbreak emergency.

The Scientific Commission was updated on the outcomes of the 12th meeting of the FAO/OIE Joint Advisory Committee for Rinderpest (JAC), which was held at the OIE Headquarters on 19 and 20 December 2017. The JAC discussed pending applications for Rinderpest Holding Facilities – an on-site inspection took place in March 2018 for a possible Category A and B facility, while an update on the implementation of actions required for the designation of another facility is expected. A Resolution for the clarification of the procedures for renewal of the mandate of the five Rinderpest Holding Facilities approved in 2015 along with the possible approval of the two aforementioned institutes was presented for adoption. The Scientific Commission was informed that the JAC had also discussed the implications of the publication of genetic sequences of rinderpest virus as well as recommendations for the implementation of the GRAP and accompanying Operational Framework for the management and Deployment of the Rinderpest Vaccine Reserve.

\(^{19}\) AU-IBAR: African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

\(^{20}\) GRAP: Global Rinderpest Action Plan
133. **Infection with rabies virus**

The Scientific Commission considered and endorsed the *ad hoc* Group report and the reviewed *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 8.14. Infection with rabies virus. The Scientific Commission commended the work of the *ad hoc* Group to align the amended chapter with the Global Strategic Plan to Prevent Human Deaths from Dog-Transmitted Rabies by 2030, drafted by the OIE in partnership with FAO, WHO, and GARC\(^{21}\) and launched in September 2017.

The Scientific Commission noted the proposal made by the *ad hoc* Group to establish a procedure for the endorsement by the OIE of an official national control programme for dog-mediated rabies initiated by Member Countries in support of the global elimination strategy. The Scientific Commission strongly supported this proposal as it recognises the key role that dogs play in the epidemiology of the disease in humans. The creation of a formal procedure for endorsement of the official dog-mediated rabies national control programme would enhance and facilitate the implementation of the global strategy. The Scientific Commission agreed with the *ad hoc* Group's opinion and considered that the creation of a procedure for the official endorsement of the dog-mediated rabies national control programme would support Member Countries to sustainably reduce human deaths due to rabies and would contribute to eventually breaking the cycle of transmission from dogs to humans.

The Scientific Commission acknowledged that the inclusion of dog-mediated rabies in the list of diseases for which the OIE endorses the official control programme would need to be supported by the Member Countries. The Scientific Commission therefore agreed to seek feedback from Member Countries on the way forward with this specific suggestion. It was noted that for the endorsement of the dog-mediated rabies national control programme an approach similar to that for other diseases (e.g. FMD, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia [CBPP], PPR) should be considered so as to ensure the quality of the programme and the transparency of the evaluation.

134. **Infection with bluetongue virus**

The Scientific Commission discussed the concerns expressed by some Member Countries on the sustainability and scientific justification for the criteria used to determine the cut-off points for the commencement and ending of a bluetongue-free season. While agreeing that vectors might be present during winter, the Scientific Commission stressed that this did not necessarily imply that they were capable of replicating and transmitting the virus. The Scientific Commission encouraged further scientific investigation on the matter, to provide evidence supporting the decision whether or not to further amend the chapter. The Scientific Commission proposed that the OIE perform a literature review and use it as a basis for consultation with the OIE Reference Laboratories on the matter. Evidence on the ability to define and verify a free season with confidence would drive any further changes that might apply to this and other vector-borne disease *Terrestrial Code* chapters.

135. **Draft Chapter 8.X. Infection with* Trypanosoma evansi* (non-equine surra) and Chapter 12.3. Infection with *Trypanozoon* in equids**

The Scientific Commission addressed the Member Country comments received on the amended chapters that were circulated after the Specialist Commissions’ meetings in September 2017. The Scientific Commission noted some Member Countries were not in agreement with the suggested scope and approach of the *Terrestrial Code* trypanosomoses-related chapters. The Scientific Commission consulted with the Code Commission on how to best address the trypanosomoses disease complex in the *Terrestrial Code*. Both Commissions agreed to conduct a revision of the approach of the trypanosomoses-related chapters following the recommendations of the subject-matter experts.

\(^{21}\) GARC: Global Alliance for Rabies Control
The Scientific Commission took into consideration that a new ad hoc Group on animal African trypanosomoses was convened in March 2018 and therefore suggested putting the modification of the Terrestrial Code draft Chapter 8.X. and Chapter 12.3. on hold and requesting the experts to re-evaluate the best approach to address diseases of the trypanosomoses disease complex in the Terrestrial Code.

The Scientific Commission would consider the Member Country comments on the Terrestrial Code draft Chapter 8.X. and Chapter 12.3. at its September meeting, after receiving the opinion of the ad hoc Group on animal African trypanosomoses and following discussions with the Code Commission on the way forward.

136. **Chapter 11.9. Infection with lumpy skin disease virus**

The Scientific Commission addressed a specific comment raised at the 85th General Session in relation to the case definition for lumpy skin disease (LSD). The Scientific Commission noted that it was not possible to differentiate vaccine-induced antibodies from those elicited by natural infection. The Scientific Commission confirmed that the presence of antibodies in a bovine or a water buffalo that showed clinical signs consistent with LSD or was epidemiologically linked to a suspected or confirmed case should be considered as a case of LSD. The Scientific Commission also noted that the presence of antibodies does not necessarily correlate with protection.

The Scientific Commission was also informed of the outcome of the 5th LSD Standing Expert Group (SEG5) meeting (under the umbrella of GF-TADs for Europe), at which the use of preventive vaccination was extensively discussed. The Scientific Commission acknowledged that, while no updates on new DIVA vaccines were presented, a PCR test to discriminate infected from vaccinated animals was currently available. Research is being undertaken towards the development of inactivated vaccines.

The Scientific Commission noted that the current Terrestrial Code chapter requires that, if vaccination is performed, the Member Country would be considered as non-free. Some Member Countries had already started applying trade facilitating measures allowing a distinction to be made between Member Countries free with, and those free without, vaccination. The Scientific Commission was of the opinion that should this measure be scientifically sound and feasible it may justify a revision of the Terrestrial Code Chapter on Infection with LSD virus.

137. **Infection with classical swine fever virus**

The Scientific Commission took note of the opinion of the ad hoc Group related to the proposed provisions on “historical freedom” and “freedom in all pigs” in Article 15.2.3. of the Terrestrial Code.

The Scientific Commission concurred with the rationale provided by the ad hoc Group, and furthermore underlined the potential impact on the official recognition of CSF free status (including the impact on already officially recognised CSF free countries and zones) linked to the proposed provisions in Article 15.2.3. In addition, as the work on harmonisation of the requirements for disease free status recognition and maintenance of the disease-specific chapters was ongoing, the Scientific Commission suggested that this proposal be further considered and that the possible relevant amendments be included in the harmonised chapter prior to its further circulation for Member Country comment.
Porcine epidemic diarrhoea (PED): possible inclusion in the OIE list of diseases

The Scientific Commission took note of a document received from a Member Country requesting the OIE to reconsider the inclusion of porcine epidemic diarrhoea (PED) in the OIE list of diseases. The Scientific Commission acknowledged that this disease is a priority for some Member Countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The Scientific Commission noted that the ad hoc Group on PED convened in 2014 had concluded that the disease did not fulfil the listing criteria of Terrestrial Code Chapter 1.2.

The Scientific Commission, in discussions with the Code Commission during a joint meeting, raised the need to reconsider the procedure for listing diseases. The Scientific Commission pointed out that in addition to examining objective listing criteria, the expert groups tasked with the evaluation of diseases for listing should have broad expertise, including epidemiology, and also include members from the Specialist Commissions, to ensure an even, objective and comprehensive assessment.

It was concluded that once this process had been formalised and finalised, requests for new disease listings could be considered.

Antimicrobial resistance

The Scientific Commission commended the ad hoc Group and the OIE for their ongoing work on antimicrobial resistance and for the publication of the Second Annual Report on the Data Collection on Antimicrobial Agents Intended for Use in Animals.

The Scientific Commission was informed that the meeting of the ad hoc Group in January 2018 was conducted firstly to deal with the OIE database on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals; secondly to attend to the replies to the comments of the Member Countries on Terrestrial Code chapters 6.7. on harmonisation of national antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes and 6.8. on monitoring of the quantities and usage patterns of antimicrobial agents used in food-producing animals; and thirdly to update the OIE List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance. The Scientific Commission subsequently reviewed and concurred with the replies of the ad hoc Group to the Member Country comments on the Terrestrial Code chapters 6.7. and 6.8.

The Scientific Commission discussed the List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance, and the recommendations that were proposed during the ad hoc Group meeting. The Commission was reminded that the List was developed to serve as a global reference for the use of antimicrobial agents in animals. Acknowledging that the WHO List of Critically Important Antibiotics was recently updated, the Group proposed to include a strong statement in the OIE List recommending phasing out the classes included in the WHO category of Highest Priority Critically Important Antimicrobials for use as growth promoters. The Scientific Commission acknowledged that the misuse of antimicrobials for growth promotion could pose serious risks for development and spread of antimicrobial resistance. The List with the revised recommendations, as endorsed by the Scientific Commission, will be proposed for adoption in Resolution No. 21.

The Scientific Commission acknowledged the receipt of a paper developed by the OIE Headquarters outlining the problem and proposing some suggestions on how to address the challenge of resistance to antiparasitics. The Scientific Commission agreed on the value of convening an electronic ad hoc Group and including the relevant OIE Collaborating Centres to initiate the discussion. Physical meetings could be organised if needed to propose more concrete actions.
The Scientific Commission welcomed the suggestion to initiate the consultation aimed at drafting a technical document for internal discussion and publication after endorsement by the Scientific Commission.

140. **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 are still work in progress:

– Theileriosis, trypanosomosis, rabies, BSE and FMD.

141. **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 the past year. A total of 17 applications were assessed while expert missions to four Member Countries were conducted to verify applications and to assess the measures in place for the maintenance of status.

**a) Review of annual confirmation of disease status**

During its February 2018 meeting, the Scientific Commission comprehensively reviewed the annual reconfirmations of the Member Countries that had been pre-selected at its meeting in September 2017. The annual confirmations of 45 Member Countries were screened in detail by the Scientific Commission (AHS – eight; BSE – seven; CBPP – two; CBPP [Programme] – one; CSF – four; FMD – eleven; FMD [Programme] – six; PPR – six).

Following the screening of Member Country reports by the Scientific Commission, responses were prepared to those Member Countries that should take remedial steps to enhance the disease control measures for the maintenance of status. The Scientific Commission emphasised that Member Countries with an endorsed control programme must demonstrate progress along the timeline initially submitted to the OIE and should clearly indicate their working plan towards disease control or eradication. The Scientific Commission underlined the importance of timely submissions (by the end of November each year) of the annual reconfirmations for maintenance of official status and of endorsement of official control programmes and re-iterated that lack of submission of these compulsory reports by the end of January will lead to the suspension of the official status or to the withdrawal of the endorsement of the official control programme of Member Countries as from 2019.

The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the report prepared by the OIE Status Department on the remaining annual reconfirmations that had not been selected for comprehensive review. The Scientific Commission reviewed those annual reconfirmations for which the Status Department required the scientific advice of the Commission. The Scientific Commission concluded that the annual reconfirmations were compliant with the relevant requirements of relevant chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* for the maintenance of the officially recognised status and made recommendations to some Member Countries regarding their annual reconfirmations for maintenance of disease status.

**b) Expert missions to Member Countries**

Expert missions 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 better understand the application of OIE standards for disease control and maintenance of disease status and to the robustness, objectivity and transparency of the procedure for official status recognition and maintenance.
Missions were undertaken to four Member Countries by teams of selected experts accompanied by a member of the OIE Status Department, when relevant. Of the four missions, two were to assess the maintenance of country disease free status and two were to verify compliance with the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* for status recognition.

The Scientific Commission reviewed and prioritised the planned missions to Member Countries for official recognition or for maintenance of disease status. The Scientific Commission endorsed the terms of reference for missions that had been planned to be undertaken before its next meeting in September 2018.

c) **Harmonisation of the requirements for disease free status recognition and maintenance of the disease-specific chapters**

At its February 2017 meeting, the Scientific Commission reviewed the documents prepared by the OIE Status Department on the harmonisation and update of the requirements for recognition and maintenance of status and the endorsement of official control programmes.

The Scientific Commission agreed on harmonised requirements for the *Terrestrial Code* for the official recognition of AHS, CBPP, CSF, FMD with and without vaccination, and PPR free status as well as for the endorsement and maintenance of official control programmes for FMD, CBPP and PPR. Based on the discussions of the Scientific Commission, the harmonised requirements together with the rationale would be finalised electronically between the Scientific Commission and the OIE Status Department and forwarded to the Code Commission for its consideration in September 2018.

d) **Update on the procedures for self-declaration**

The Scientific Commission commended the OIE on the good progress made with the Standard Operating Procedures for self-declaration to improve clarity and better guide Member Countries wishing to self-declare their countries, zone(s) or compartment(s) free from any disease, except those for which the OIE has a specific procedure for official recognition of disease status. The Scientific Commission endorsed the procedure and noted that it would be available soon on the dedicated page of the OIE website, as would the archives of all the self-declarations published by the OIE since 2000.

e) **Clarification of the official status of non-contiguous territories**

The Scientific Commission discussed the situation of non-contiguous territories of Member Countries already having an officially recognised disease status or endorsement of their official control programmes. Following a Member Country’s proposal, the OIE requested certain Member Countries to clarify the situation of their non-contiguous territories vis-à-vis official status. Considering the willingness of some Member Countries to include non-contiguous territories that were not specified in the initial application for disease status recognition, the OIE drafted a procedure to transparently state the way to proceed to have these non-contiguous territories included. The Scientific Commission highlighted that Member Countries with non-contiguous territories should carefully consider the inclusion of these territories as part of the officially recognised disease status; in the case of an outbreak in a non-contiguous territory(ies), this would lead to suspension of the official status of the whole territory being recognised. The Scientific Commission also discussed the possible options if an outbreak should occur and concluded that the establishment of a containment zone could be a workable option.

The Scientific Commission noted that the clarified situation of non-contiguous territories in terms of official status recognition would be specified in the Resolutions to be proposed for adoption by the Assembly in May 2019.
f) Evaluation of Member Country status for foot and mouth disease (FMD)

The President of the Scientific Commission acknowledged with appreciation the work done by the ad hoc Group. The ad hoc Group had received and evaluated six applications from five Member Countries. Of these, two applications were for country status free without vaccination, three for zonal freedom with vaccination, and one for an endorsed national control programme.

In addition, the Scientific Commission received one application for the establishment of a containment zone.

The Scientific Commission reviewed the recommendations of the ad hoc Group that met to evaluate Member Country applications for FMD status recognition.

- **Evaluation of a request from two Member Countries for the status recognition of 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 Peru and Suriname as countries free from FMD where vaccination is not practised.

- **Evaluation of requests from Member Countries for the status recognition of an FMD free zone where vaccination is practised**

  The Scientific Commission agreed with the conclusion of the ad hoc Group and recommended that the Assembly recognise the requests of the Delegates of Brazil and Chinese Taipei to recognise the zones described in their applications to the OIE as zones free from FMD where vaccination is practised.

- **Evaluation of a request from a Member Country for the establishment of a containment zone following an outbreak of FMD within the free zone**

  Following a request from the Delegate of Colombia to establish a containment zone for FMD, the Commission considered its compliance with the requirements of Article 8.8.6. of the Terrestrial Code. In accordance with the mandate provided to the Scientific Commission in Resolution No. 15 of the 83rd General Session, the Scientific Commission approved the establishment of a containment zone, as described in the documentation submitted to the OIE by the Delegate of Colombia on 21 November 2017, and the status of the zone of Colombia was reinstated with effect from 11 December 2017, with the exception of the territory of the containment zone.

  These recommendations, as well as those related to the maintenance of Member Country FMD free status already recognised through compliance with the annual reconfirmation, were submitted for adoption by the Assembly in Draft Resolution No. 22.

  In addition, the recommendations related to the endorsement of official control programmes for FMD were submitted for adoption by the Assembly in Draft Resolution No. 23.

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

  No applications were received for the evaluation of CBPP status. The Assembly is therefore requested to confirm the existing list of CBPP free Member Countries and zones and the existing list of Member Countries having an endorsed CBPP official control programme, in Draft Resolutions Nos 24 and 25, respectively, in accordance with the previous recommendations related to the maintenance of already recognised CBPP free status and endorsement of official control programme.
h) Evaluation of Member Country risk 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 two Member Countries for the recognition of their BSE risk status.

The Commission agreed with the conclusions of the ad hoc Group and recommended that the Assembly recognise Nicaragua as having a negligible BSE risk.

This recommendation, as well as those related to the maintenance of already recognised BSE risk status through compliance with the annual reconfirmation, were submitted to the Assembly for adoption in Draft Resolution No. 26.

i) 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 an application from a Member Country for the recognition of AHS free status.

In addition, the Scientific Commission discussed an application from a Member Country, assessed in February 2017, for which the Scientific Commission recommended deployment of a mission to verify compliance with the provisions of the Terrestrial Code for the recognition of AHS free status.

The Scientific Commission agreed with the conclusions of the ad hoc Group and of the mission team, and no new countries were added to the existing list of Member Countries free from AHS. The Scientific Commission recommended that this existing list be confirmed by the Assembly.

These recommendations were submitted to the Assembly for adoption in Draft Resolution No. 27, in accordance with the previous recommendations related to the maintenance of already recognised AHS free status.

j) 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, three for PPR free status recognition and one for the endorsement of an official control programme.

The Scientific Commission agreed with the conclusions of the ad hoc Group and recommended that the Assembly recognise Madagascar, Peru and Uruguay as PPR free countries.

Following a mission to a Member Country and after careful evaluation of the information provided by the Member Country and the mission experts, the Scientific Commission decided to suspend the historical free status for PPR of that Member Country due to non-compliance with the requirements of the Terrestrial Code.

These recommendations, as well as those related to the maintenance of already recognised PPR free status through compliance with the annual reconfirmation, were submitted to the Assembly for adoption in Draft Resolution No. 28.

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

The Commission reviewed the report of the ad hoc Group on the evaluation of three applications from Member Countries for the recognition of CSF status.
The Commission agreed with the conclusions of the *ad hoc* Group and recommended that the Assembly recognise Argentina and Costa Rica as CSF free countries.

In addition, the Scientific Commission discussed the application from Bulgaria, assessed in February 2017 and for which it had been provisionally concluded that the country fulfilled the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code*, pending the outcome of a mission deployed to the country to verify compliance with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* for recognition of CSF free status. The mission was undertaken in September 2017 and, following an evaluation by the Scientific Commission of the recommendations of the experts, the Scientific Commission recommended that the Assembly recognise Bulgaria as a CSF free country.

These recommendations, as well as those related to the maintenance of already recognised CSF free status through compliance with the annual reconfirmation, were submitted to the Assembly for adoption in Draft Resolution No. 29.

142. **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:

- Review and finalisation of draft and amended *Terrestrial Code* chapters on rabies, animal health surveillance, BSE, and trypanosomoses, as well as work on Prioritisation of diseases for which vaccines could reduce antimicrobial use in cattle, sheep and goats.

143. After presentation of the report by the President of the Scientific Commission, the President of the Assembly opened the floor for discussion.

144. Barbados complimented the Scientific Commission for the excellent work performed during the last year. With regard to the non-contiguous territories, he noted this review should consider not only the potential impact of an outbreak in a non-contiguous territory on the official status of the mainland, but also the potential consequences on the official status of the non-contiguous territory when an outbreak occurs in the mainland.

145. Brazil expressed its appreciation to the Scientific Commission for its work over the years. Brazil acknowledged that applications for the official recognition of disease free status, as well as for PVS evaluations, were on a voluntary basis and highlighted the value of field missions in support of the recognition and maintenance of official disease status. Brazil suggested that PVS evaluations could complement the applications for the recognition of an official disease status in order to document the current capacities of the veterinary services, as this would further inform the evaluation of the applications.

146. Japan thanked Dr Brückner for his excellent presentation. Japan requested clarification regarding the current revision of the OIE List of antimicrobial agents of veterinary importance (OIE List), noting that a literature review on ionophores was being undertaken by the *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance in order to classify their use. Japan also noted that ionophores are not currently included in the OIE’s global data collection on antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals. Japan requested clarification on the OIE’s current state of play of the discussion on ionophores.

147. Senegal, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the OIE Africa Region, thanked the Scientific Commission for taking the initiative to review *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 8.14. on rabies aimed at increasing emphasis on the control of dog-mediated rabies. Senegal recognised that dog-mediated rabies remains a very serious problem for the African continent and that the goal should be its elimination. Senegal particularly appreciated the introduction of the concept of the OIE endorsed official control programme for dog-mediated rabies within the amended chapter. This would create an incentive for many Members to constructively proceed in control of the disease, and support them in obtaining appropriate
political support. Furthermore, Senegal expressed its support for the Global Strategic Plan to End Human Deaths from Dog-mediated Rabies by 2030 developed by the OIE, WHO, FAO and GARC, and was confident that introducing this additional incentive in the amended chapter would enhance the control of rabies in Africa and at global level.

148. Ireland, on behalf of the 28 Member States of the European Union (EU), congratulated the Scientific Commission for its essential work, in particular, on the horizontal chapters of the Terrestrial Code and on the procedures for self-declaration and for official recognition by the OIE, including the application questionnaires. The EU noted with appreciation the strengthened coordination between the Scientific and the Code Commissions in the prioritisation of their respective work programmes, given the high volume of work of both Commissions on the Terrestrial Code.

With regard to the questionnaires for official status recognition, the EU supported their continuous update as necessary and their transfer, per disease, into separate chapters of the Terrestrial Code. The EU insisted that the procedures and questionnaires remain as standards in the Terrestrial Code, assuring the international acceptance of the official disease status granted by the OIE, and in line with the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan.

Finally, the EU commended the OIE for having initiated the important work of thoroughly revising the avian influenza chapter of the Terrestrial Code. However, the EU noted that no concrete progress had been made on reviewing the BSE chapter and reiterated the urgent need to comprehensively revise the surveillance recommendations, taking into account the specificities of atypical BSE and the context of the current epidemiological situation. This would have an important effect on the annual reconfirmation of the BSE risk status of Members, particularly those with small cattle populations.

The EU further confirmed its full support to continue participating and providing technical assistance to the Scientific Commission and the ad hoc Groups for the ongoing review of the BSE chapter of the Terrestrial Code.

149. Swaziland, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the OIE Africa Region, thanked the Scientific Commission for taking note of the request to convene an ad hoc Group to draft a Terrestrial Code chapter on animal African trypanosomosis, which would assist the African countries in their efforts to control this devastating disease. Swaziland expressed their interest in the outcome of the recommendations from the ad hoc Group and from the Scientific Commission.

150. Australia commented that the text proposed for the OIE List included a statement that “classes in the WHO category of the Highest Priority Critically Important Antimicrobials should be the highest priorities for countries in phasing out the use of antimicrobials as growth promoters”. Australia recalled that previous texts allowed for countries to undertake their own risk assessment for the phasing out of growth promoters, and requested clarification on whether countries were still encouraged to consider their own risk assessments, if this new text was proposing a different option.

151. Iraq complimented the Scientific Commission for the work performed during the past year. Iraq announced its commitment to tackle antimicrobial resistance in coordination with the Ministry of Health and with the support of WHO. Iraq requested the support of the OIE to develop and implement its National Action Plan in line with the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance.

152. The President of the Scientific Commission commended the Members for their comments. He thanked Senegal and Swaziland for their appreciation of the Scientific Commission’s work. In particular, he acknowledged Africa’s support for the OIE endorsed official control programme for dog-mediated rabies. He agreed with the comment of Barbados in relation to the need to consider the impacts on non-contiguous territories resulting from outbreaks on the mainland.
153. In response to the comment made by Brazil, the President of the Scientific Commission concurred that the capacities of the veterinary services were important for the recognition of an official disease free status. The President of the Scientific Commission clarified that recent PVS evaluation reports were routinely taken into consideration, when available, in order to inform the evaluation of applications and field missions. He reminded that PVS evaluations should remain on a voluntary basis. In addition, he noted that, recently, a PVS evaluation was combined with a field mission related to official status recognition, which proved fruitful.

154. The President of the Scientific Commission thanked the EU for offering its support for the revision of the BSE standards. Furthermore, Dr Stone informed the Assembly that the first BSE ad hoc Group meeting to initiate the scientific evaluation has been scheduled in July 2018. The terms of reference of this ad hoc Group, as well as a detailed description of the scientific issues to be addressed and the meeting dates, were available on the OIE website.

155. In response to Japan’s comment on the OIE List, the President of the Scientific Commission explained that the question on ionophores is a matter of classification at this stage, because some countries regard them as antibiotics and others as antiparasitics. He continued that the ad hoc Group on antimicrobial resistance would consider the request for more clarification in its next meeting.

Dr Matthew Stone also responded to Japan’s intervention. He reminded that the proposed changes to the OIE List were made available to all Delegates and that the status of antimicrobial agents on the OIE List had not been changed. He explained that ionophores are used in a number of species, particularly as anti-coccidials in poultry, which is what makes them critically important in these species, as reflected in the table. Dr Stone stated that the ad hoc Group on Antimicrobial Resistance is tracking current technical reviews of ionophores, which are expected to proceed over the coming year. Dr Stone explained that as ionophores are currently only used in animals, it is often assumed that their risks to public health are minimal. However, early information received by the ad hoc Group may indicate that the situation is more complicated, and that other interactions might need to be considered. Dr Stone noted that the ad hoc Group would consider any new information on ionophores in the second phase of their review process, which will include a deeper consideration of the classification of agents within the table.

156. Dr Stone also responded to Australia’s comment, informing that in 2016 the WHO reviewed their List of Critically Important Antimicrobials, and offered an explanation of the categorization, particularly that there are five classes of antimicrobials in a sub-classification of “highest priority critically important antimicrobials”. Dr Stone expressed the OIE’s belief that a very strong position should be taken by the World Assembly that these agents should be the highest priority to phase out for use as growth promoters.

157. In response to Iraq, Dr Stone complimented the Member for its efforts in combatting antimicrobial resistance through development of a National Action Plan. He underscored the strong commitment of the Tripartite to enhancing a One Health approach in the drafting and implementation of National Action Plans. He highlighted that the Tripartite, in coordination with international partners, is providing support through the development of international standards and guidelines, as well as a variety of tools, including the Global Framework for Development and Stewardship to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance and a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for National Action Plans. Dr Stone confirmed the OIE’s availability and willingness to discuss directly with Iraq, as the OIE does with all Members, and to provide support whenever possible. Dr Stone noted that, as a first step, collaboration with public health and environmental health authorities under the One Health approach should be undertaken at national and regional level, as recommended by the Tripartite.
Prior to concluding the third plenary session, the President, Dr Modisane, took the opportunity to formally recognise the exemplary commitment of the President of the Scientific Commission to the OIE and his excellent work over the past 32 years. He commented on the career contributions of Dr Brückner to the OIE and to the field of veterinary medicine. The OIE Director General joined the congratulations and presented him with a gift of appreciation on behalf of the Organisation and the Members.

The Assembly noted the Report of the Scientific Commission.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 20
Designation of Facilities as Approved for Holding Rinderpest Virus Containing Material

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
List of antimicrobial agents of veterinary importance

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 Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members

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.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 23
Endorsement of official control programmes for Foot and Mouth Disease of Members

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 Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Members

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.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 25
Endorsement of official control programmes for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia of Members

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.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 26
Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Members

The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 26 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 26 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 27
Recognition of the African Horse Sickness Status of Members

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.
Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 28
Recognition of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Status of Members

168. 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.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 29
Recognition of the Classical Swine Fever Status of Members

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

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Group (contd)

Working Group on Wildlife

170. The Chair of the Working Group on Wildlife, Dr William Karesh, presented an overview of the activities of the Working Group since the previous General Session and the outcomes of the annual meeting of the Working Group held from 12 to 15 December 2017 (Doc. 86 SG/13/GT).

171. The Working Group reviewed the proposed new Terms of Reference developed by the OIE Headquarters that were then endorsed by the Council. Both climate change and biodiversity will be important themes for the Working Group going forward as well as work on emerging diseases.

The Working Group began a preliminary discussion of the impacts of climate change on animal health, particularly with reference to wildlife. An initial list of indicators that may signal climate change-related effects was developed, including: 1) changes in population size and geographical distribution (including altitudinal change); 2) altered feeding behaviour of wildlife; 3) altered (including novel) microbial fauna that typically inhabit a given species (including microbial agents with zoonotic potential); 4) increased resulting relative prevalence of a disease; and 5) change in the timing of various life-cycle events such as altered breeding seasonality, whereby some species begin mating earlier or later than usual. Changes in breeding seasonality may result in a number of species effects, including: altered host–pathogen dynamics (e.g. avian influenza), changes in migratory patterns affecting the frequency of breeding intervals, mass mortality events due to thermal or oxygen stress, starvation, increased incidence of opportunistic infections, temperature-dependent expression of disease due to pathogen environmental sensitivities, and increased survival of vectors (ticks/biting flies, etc.).

172. The Working Group was informed by the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department (WAHIAD) of disease reporting information for WAHIS-Wild, highlighting the decreasing trend of reporting between 2012 (71 countries) and 2016 (29 countries). The Working Group expressed its deep concerns about this trend. The WAHIAD, the OIE Science and New Technologies Department and the Working Group agreed on a number of actions to improve notifications from the OIE National Focal Points for Wildlife.

The Working Group highlighted the need for non-notifiable wildlife pathogens (such as the non-OIE listed disease-causing agents identified by the Working Group, and OIE-listed diseases for which reporting of events in wildlife cannot be made in WAHIS, due to case
definitions established in the *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Codes*) to be included in the voluntary reporting of non-OIE-listed diseases in wildlife, e.g. Lyssaviruses other than rabies virus (formerly referred to as classical rabies virus, genotype-1), and proposed an update of this list of non-OIE-listed diseases in wildlife accordingly.

The Working Group updated the list for voluntary reporting of non-OIE-listed diseases in wildlife. A number of diseases were removed and others added to the list. Finally, the Working Group would consider at its next meeting, and further consult the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, the addition of major pathogens of corals.


174. The Working Group discussed CWD in Scandinavia. Since the first detection of CWD cases in Norway in 2016, the country has analysed samples from about 31,000 reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus tarandus*), red deer (*Cervus elaphus atlanticus*), roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), and moose (*Alces alces*). By 1 December 2017, CWD has been detected in nine free-ranging reindeer, three moose and one red deer.


In Kazakhstan, no further mass mortalities have been observed since the 2015 outbreak. Field reports from 2017 indicate that population numbers appear to be recovering (>50,000 Central, >70,000 Ural, ~2,000 Utsiurt, and ~2,000 Kalmykia).

In Mongolia, Saiga antelope, ibex, goitered gazelles and bharal were affected during a PPR outbreak in 2017. This occurred during a PPR vaccination campaign of small ruminants that did not completely cover all livestock in the affected part of the country. Mortality of Saiga was estimated to be 55% of the entire population and very few of the year's calves were observed during the summer. There is no evidence to support the utility of culling wildlife in this situation. The experts involved in the investigation have provided interesting observations on how Veterinary Services activities in response to such events can support, or indeed hinder, the understanding of the epidemiology and ecological impact of the event. A guideline for such situations could prove useful, and the Working Group will consider this in its future work programme.

\(^{22}\) MERS: Middle East respiratory syndrome
176. The Working Group discussed ASF in Europe. In 2017, the number of cases of ASF reported in wild boar and domestic pigs in Europe had further increased and the disease had progressed further westwards, with new foci far from the epidemic front. Human activities and movements, together with a lack of biosecurity, appear to play a central role in ASF spread in Eastern Europe. Furthermore, the virus now seems to be maintained in the wild as evidenced by further spread within wild boar populations. The contagiousness of the ASF virus in these conditions appears to be lower than expected, possibly explaining why geographical expansion of the disease in wild boar has been slower than expected. However, the ability of ASF virus to persist in the environment (including in carcasses), especially in cold weather conditions, is considered to be a key factor for its persistence in the wild.

177. The Working Group assisted the OIE in collaborating with the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), the European Federation of Hunting Associations (FACE) and Bulgaria to arrange a conference in Bulgaria in December 2017 to train hunters in wildlife disease surveillance, focusing on ASF. The training course was financed by grants from the European Union and Bulgaria. It was attended by around 20 representatives from hunting associations, and 10 OIE National Focal Points for Wildlife, with a total of around 40 participants.

178. The Working Group was informed that the OIE is seeking to participate more in collaborative activities relevant to its mandate with other international organisations focused on environment and biodiversity conservation. Some of these include the IUCN\textsuperscript{23}, the CBD\textsuperscript{24}, CITES\textsuperscript{25}, CABI\textsuperscript{26}, the WCO\textsuperscript{27}, and the IMO\textsuperscript{28}.

179. The Working Group was briefed on the successful fourth cycle of training workshops for OIE National Focal Points for Wildlife. The workshops were held in July 2016 in Belarus for Europe, in November 2016 in Kenya for Anglophone Africa and the Middle East, in January 2017 in Togo for Francophone Africa, in March 2017 in Paraguay for the Americas, and in July 2017 in Indonesia for Asia. The fourth cycle was focused on wildlife disease surveillance, particularly from a diagnostic perspective, and also included basic information on the OIE, presentations and discussion on regional wildlife health issues, and hands-on instruction in the use of WAHIS-Wild. The OIE Collaborating Centre for Research, Diagnosis, and Surveillance of Wildlife Pathogens (USA and Canada) presented on wildlife disease surveillance, and had prepared a training manual for this part of the workshop. The Working Group was informed that the programme of the fifth cycle was in development.

180. The Working Group discussed the OIE’s objectives in recommending diagnostic methods for all pathogens from the non-listed wildlife pathogen/disease list. The aim is to provide guidance to countries regarding the best diagnostic approach and to harmonise diagnostic methods. Currently, the OIE does not recommend diagnostic protocols for such pathogens in the OIE Manuals. Members of the Working Group commented that a number of factsheets with diagnostic method recommendations for infectious diseases in wildlife species have already been produced by different groups, such as the Diagnosis Cards of the European Wildlife Disease Association (www.ewda.org), the Wildlife Health Fact Sheets of Wildlife Health Australia (www.wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au), or the factsheets in the Transmissible Diseases Handbook of the European Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians (www.eazwv.org).

\textsuperscript{23} IUCN: International Union for the Conservation of Nature
\textsuperscript{24} CBD: Convention on Biological Diversity
\textsuperscript{25} CITES: Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
\textsuperscript{26} CABI: Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International
\textsuperscript{27} WCO: World Customs Organization
\textsuperscript{28} IMO: International Maritime Organization
The Working Group will continue to search for on-line sources of reliable information on diagnostic methods applicable to wild animal specimens for all non-listed pathogens for which the OIE requests annual voluntary reporting from its Member Countries. This information will be provided to the OIE in an effort to support OIE Member Countries for wildlife disease surveillance and diagnosis.

181. The Working Group identified a priority list of activities for its work programme 2018, in line with the newly proposed Terms of Reference. In addition to the activities reported above, the list included: 1) strengthening collaboration with the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission and relevant OIE staff regarding the role of the Working Group in support of aquatic animal health; 2) communicating with the other OIE Specialist Commissions regularly to ensure the Working Group responds to new and on-going priorities and needs of the OIE; 3) exploring ways to address issues of climate change and biodiversity as related to animal health, and continuing to inform the OIE about issues associated with wildlife, including emerging diseases; 4) exploring ways to support the engagement of OIE National Focal Points for Wildlife within relevant projects, platforms and conferences; 5) assisting the OIE in maintaining and developing partnerships and activities with relevant international organisations, providing contacts and insights on OIE participation and representation; and 6) contributing to the revision of the Tripartite (OIE-FAO-WHO) guide to zoonotic diseases. In addition to this list, the Working Group will respond to requests from the OIE as received.

182. The President of the Assembly thanked Dr Karesh for his comprehensive presentation and opened the floor for discussion.

183. Ghana thanked Dr Karesh for his presentation. Ghana asked whether the training seminars for OIE National Focal Points for Wildlife were also held in Africa.

184. Australia expressed support for the ongoing work of the OIE Working Group on Wildlife and made three comments: (1) Australia noted that the Wildlife Working Group report contained very useful justification for revisions to the list of Non OIE-Listed Diseases in Wildlife and suggested that a document collating this information for each disease would be a valuable resource for all Focal Points for Wildlife and support better reporting; (2) Australia pointed out that information was compiled from reliable sources on diagnostic methods for all pathogens from the Non OIE-Listed Diseases in Wildlife. Australia recommended that diagnostic test methods be provided to OIE National Focal Points for Wildlife as this may support increased voluntary reporting. However, Australia highlighted that the main issue remained what constitutes a ‘positive’ vs ‘suspect’ detection for the purpose of reporting diseases from this List and suggested that further guidance on reporting be developed; (3) Australia took note of a decrease in voluntary reporting, particularly related to a lack of “buy-in” from Members on the choice of the Non OIE-Listed Diseases in Wildlife. More opportunities to contribute to the decision on diseases on the List may improve “buy-in” and thus reporting by Members.

185. Indonesia expressed its appreciation for the report of the OIE Working Group on Wildlife and noted its great interest in biodiversity conservation through the development and implementation of policies focusing on wildlife and forest protection. Indonesia proposed that the Assembly adopt a resolution on wildlife diseases towards translating the recommendations by the Working Group into a legally binding mechanism for OIE Members.

186. The Democratic Republic of the Congo thanked Dr Karesh for the presentation. The Democratic Republic of the Congo inquired if the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the OIE have an agreement on standards concerning the movement of endangered animal species.
187. Dr Karesh thanked the Members for their comments. In response to Ghana, Dr Karesh mentioned that the training seminars for OIE National Focal Points for Wildlife were organised in the following regions: Europe; Americas; Asia; English-speaking Africa and the Middle East; and French-speaking Africa. He suggested that OIE National Focal Points for Wildlife could be trained together with OIE National Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification. In response to Australia, Dr Karesh supported the development of recommended diagnostic test methods for non-OIE-listed diseases in wildlife and pointed out that this is already included in the working plan of the Group. In addition, he agreed that increasing “buy-in” from Members was a good suggestion. Dr Karesh acknowledged the suggestion made by Indonesia but also reminded that notification of non-OIE-listed diseases in wildlife is voluntary, and remarked that Members should take the initiative in this matter. In response to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, he emphasised the importance of appointing national counterparts for CITES to enhance networking and clarify the roles and responsibilities regarding the movement of endangered species. He added that the OIE does have an official agreement with CITES which will enable close cooperation.

188. Dr Stone confirmed that the OIE has a cooperation agreement with CITES, but that collaboration could be strengthened in the future. He mentioned that according to the new Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Wildlife, there was an opportunity to expand collaboration with other international organisations working on wildlife and biodiversity. In response to Indonesia, he reiterated that reporting on WAHIS-Wild was done on a voluntary basis. He recalled that in the past, Delegates had asked to keep notification to WAHIS-Wild on a voluntary basis, and that WAHIS clearly distinguish between reporting obligations that are compulsory according to the OIE Code and the voluntary system of WAHIS-Wild.

189. The Democratic Republic of the Congo expressed concern about the potential role played by communities living in areas of high contact with wildlife in the spread of emerging and re-emerging animal diseases, including ebola. The Democratic Republic of the Congo also inquired about forming an agreement with international organisations or programmes, such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), to address this issue.

190. Dr Karesh replied that he fully recognised the valuable role of populations living in close contact with wildlife for providing disease information. He acknowledged the effort of local governments to educate communities living in areas of high contact with wildlife on disease awareness to prevent future outbreaks. He further mentioned that the OIE is already working with UNEP on avian influenza and the Convention on Migratory Species.

191. The Assembly noted the report of the OIE Working Group on Wildlife. The President of the Assembly thanked everyone for their comments and thanked and congratulated Dr Karesh on his report.

**Composition of the Working Group on Wildlife**

192. The Deputy Director General took the floor to present, on behalf of the Director General, the updated Terms of Reference, as well as the revised membership of the Working Group for the period May 2018 – May 2019, validated by the Council:

- Dr William B. Karesh (United States of America) (Chairman)
- Dr Markus Hofmeyr (South Africa)
- Prof. Koichi Murata (Japan)
- Dr Marie-Pierre Ryser-Degiorgis (Switzerland)
- Dr Jonathan Sleeman (United States of America)
- Dr Marcela Uhart (Argentina)
- Dr Rupert Woods (Australia)
Follow-up to the Recommendation of the Conference

2nd OIE Global Conference on Biological Threat Reduction:
Ottawa (Canada), 31 October – 2 November 2017

193. Ms Tianna Brand, Head of the Programmes Department (Biological Threat Reduction and Operational Partnerships) presented the main conclusions of the 2nd Global Conference on Biological Threat Reduction, held in Ottawa (Canada), 31 October – 2 November 2017. The Conference was implemented with the generous support of the Government of Canada (both the WMD Threat Reduction Program - Global Affairs Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency); the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; the European Union; and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency of the United States of America.

She highlighted that the 3-day Conference hosted over 300 participants from 70 countries who were professionals from relevant international organisations, official National Delegates of OIE Member Countries, leading scientific experts, donors, and stakeholders from animal production and trade, animal health and welfare, public health, law enforcement and security communities.

194. Acknowledging that global attention to the reduction of biological threats has not wavered, and that before and since the 1st Global Conference collaboration amongst the various sectors continues to be strong, the motto of the 2nd OIE Global Conference on Biological Threat was: Enhancing Health and Security for All.

The Conference was opened with a keynote panel discussion chaired by Dr Jaspinder Komal, the acting Delegate of Canada to the OIE. The panel discussed Global perspectives on health and security. Dr Monique Eloit represented the OIE in the panel which also had high level representation from INTERPOL, the USA Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

In this vein, the Conference allowed participants to explore four themes: 1. Current developments in non-proliferation instruments and global security initiatives; 2. Global conversations on the use of technologies; 3. Assessing systems, investing in collaborations to foster preparedness; and 4. Future of biological threat reduction.

Also, for the participants to learn more about biological threat reduction activities and to interact with experts, three side events were held on:

- Espionage, epizootics, and economics: safeguarding global animal health by the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).
- Enhancing preparedness through simulated exercises and capacity building by Texas A & M University.
- Building interagency collaboration at the national and regional levels for biological threat reduction through simulation (table-top) exercises by colleagues from the UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI); and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

195. Following a call for posters, numerous abstracts were submitted for evaluation by the Scientific Committee which resulted in 34 posters being displayed.
196. At the conclusion of the Conference, 12 recommendations were adopted and discussed by all participants.

The full text of the final report and recommendations along with presentations, posters and a book of abstracts can be found on the conference website:

- English: http://www.oie.int/eng/BIOTHREAT2017/presentation_poster_recom.htm
- French: http://www.oie.int/fr/BIOTHREAT2017/presentation_poster_recom.htm
- Spanish: http://www.oie.int/esp/BIOTHREAT2017/presentation_poster_recom.htm

The media centre on the website provides access to the photos and videos taken during the Conference along with the social media feed on the OIE's Facebook page and Twitter account.

197. The OIE has started following up on the recommendations with recent workshops and projects and will be drafting project proposals with partners to support biological threat reduction with a particular focus on topics such as laboratory sustainability, emergency management and veterinary legislation.

198. Further contributing to the recommendations, in March 2018, the OIE hosted a workshop on sustainable laboratory biosafety and biosecurity\(^{29}\) as well as a workshop on establishing a dialogue between forensics experts and veterinarians using the published OIE Guidelines on the Investigation of Suspicious Biological Events\(^{30}\).

199. To begin working on a Conference recommendation related to the management of biological threat emergencies, a study to analyse national contingency plans of OIE Members along with an analysis of critical competencies in PVS Pathway reports related to emergency funding and emergency response was launched in March 2018.

Ms Brand thanked the Delegates who responded to the request to submit their national contingency plans (NCP). As a result of this study, the recommendations made to the OIE included standardizing terminology related to animal disease contingency planning and the development of other guidance for NCP.

200. As for a Conference recommendation related to the OIE's role in providing technical assistance for the reinforcement of international non-proliferation instruments, a study was undertaken to improve the effectiveness and functionality of the OIE as an assistance provider to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (UNSCR 1540). This study also undertook to highlight complementarities between the critical competencies of the OIE PVS Pathway and the operational paragraphs of the UNSCR 1540 to clearly describe how OIE can contribute to strengthening UNSCR 1540.

201. In closing, Ms Brand thanked the staff of the OIE from the Events Coordination Unit and Communications Unit for their tireless support. She personally thanked Dr Mariana Marrana, Chargée de Mission, Rinderpest, for her support in keeping the department on track and her enthusiastic participation in the implementation of the conference. And finally, she also thanked Dr Christine Uhlenhaut, Chargé de Mission, Biothreat Reduction for her creativity and resilience in formulating and realising a well-received programme supported by the Scientific Committee for the conference.

\(^{30}\) http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Our_scientific_expertise/docs/pdf/Guidelines_Investigation_Suspicious_Biological_Events.pdf?
Gambia, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the OIE Africa Region, congratulated the OIE on the organisation of the 2nd Global Conference on Biological Threat Reduction. The African Countries support the recommendations of the conference, especially as they relate to recognising that international non-proliferation instruments and investigation mechanisms play a key role in reducing biological threats. However, the Member Countries' capacities need to be strengthened and reinforced, as these instruments are relevant to all who are committed to biological threat reduction. Africa called for greater engagement of technical and policy advisors, veterinary public health officials, animal and public health networks and biorisk management experts, as well as security and law enforcement sectors. Africa also requested the OIE to continue to expand the activities of the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme in relation to biological threat reduction in collaboration with other partners, and urged Member Countries and other relevant international organizations to identify similar opportunities to incorporate and promote biological threat reduction in their legal and policy frameworks.

Ms Brand thanked Gambia (and the 54 Members of the OIE Africa Region) for their comments of support to the Conference recommendations, noting that the reference to non-proliferation instruments indicates a level of awareness of what these instruments can do. In fact the African Union has held a conference on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 and discussions were taking place at diplomatic level. As such the 1540 Committee (as well as other partners in the security community) have been asked to be inclusive of the animal and public health communities since they work with relevant pathogens.

Dr Ingo Ernst, 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 had met at the OIE Headquarters from 13 to 20 September 2017 and from 14 to 21 February 2018.

Dr Ernst expressed his gratitude to the members of the Aquatic Animals Commission, Dr Edmund Peeler (Vice-President), Dr Alicia Gallardo Lagno (Vice-President), Dr Maxwell Barson, Dr Joanne Constantine and Prof. Mohamed Shariff Bin Mohamed Din (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, as well as individual experts who provided scientific advice. On behalf of the Commission, Dr Ernst gratefully acknowledged the support and the excellent guidance and assistance given to the Commission by members of staff at OIE Headquarters.

Dr Ernst stated that preventing the emergence and spread of aquatic animal diseases is essential given the growing importance of aquatic animal production for human nutrition and the severe production impacts of diseases. The standards in the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code (Aquatic Code) and the Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals (Aquatic Manual) represent the primary and globally agreed approach for preventing the spread of transboundary aquatic animal diseases to ensure safe trade. These standards must continue to evolve to ensure that they remain relevant to the changing characteristics of aquaculture and aquatic animal trade.
207. Dr Ernst thanked those Member Countries that had submitted comments for their active participation in the standard-setting work. He noted the importance of the contributions of experts from OIE Member Countries in improving the quality of the standards and encouraged all Member Countries to contribute to this work.

208. Dr Ernst noted that the 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 supported by a rationale were considered by the Commission. Dr Ernst 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 and as stand-alone documents on the OIE website, included important information and he encouraged Member Countries to review these reports together with the report of the Commission.

209. Dr Ernst informed Delegates that he routinely meets with the President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission) and the President of the Biological Standards Commission, respectively, during Aquatic Animals Commission meetings, either in person or via teleconference. The meeting with the President of the Code Commission facilitates harmonisation of relevant chapters in both Codes under review and the meeting with the President of the Biological Standards Commission ensures alignment between the two Commissions on relevant topics, such as Reference Centres. Concluding his introductory remarks, Dr Ernst emphasised that where relevant, all comments on a specific disease are considered in the corresponding Aquatic Code and Aquatic Manual chapters to ensure 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.

210. Dr Ernst 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 28 of Document 86 SG/12/CS4 B.

Namibia, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the OIE Africa Region, thanked the Aquatic Animals Commission for the improvements in the Aquatic Code and the updates and clarifications that had been made in the Aquatic Manual. He also noted that Africa is in the process of identifying potential Reference Centres in the Africa Region. Africa anticipates that more Member Countries will utilise the PVS Tool: Aquatic and will implement recommendations where a PVS mission has been completed.

Dr Ernst appreciated the support of the 54 Members of the OIE Africa Region for the Commission's work and looked forward to their continued support.

AQUATIC CODE

211. User’s Guide

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Aquatic Animals Commission had proposed amendments to the User’s Guide in the Aquatic Code to ensure alignment with recent amendments adopted in the User’s Guide of the Terrestrial Code, where relevant. The Commission considered Member Country comments and made amendments, where appropriate.
Dr Ernst reported that some Member Countries did not support the proposal to change the wording from ‘more stringent’ to ‘that exceed’ in Sections B and C. He noted that although the Commission considered that ‘exceed’ was a more appropriate term than ‘stringent’ they agreed that this proposal should not be made, at this time, in order to ensure alignment between the Aquatic and Terrestrial Codes. Dr Ernst noted that he had discussed this point with the President of the Code Commission and they agreed to reconsider this at a future time.

Dr Ernst noted that in addition to aligning the text with the corresponding text in the Terrestrial Code, the Commission had also amended point 3 of Section C, regarding susceptibility of species, to reflect recent work undertaken to review the list of susceptible species in disease-specific chapters. The Commission also amended point 5 of Section C, regarding safety of aquatic animal products for trade, to improve readability.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

Norway, speaking on behalf of the 53 European Members of the OIE, supported adoption of the revised User’s Guide and appreciated the work undertaken in collaboration with the Code Commission to harmonise the User’s Guides between the two Codes. Dr Ernst thanked Norway for their comment and support for this revised text.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

212. Glossary

Dr Ernst reported that the Aquatic Animals Commission had proposed amendments to revise Glossary definitions for ‘aquatic animal health status’, ‘biosecurity’, ‘biosecurity plan’, ‘self-declaration of freedom from disease’ and ‘susceptible species’.

Dr Ernst commented that the Commission had revised the definition of ‘aquatic animal health status’ to ensure alignment with recent amendments to the corresponding definition in the Terrestrial Code.

Dr Ernst noted that in the definition of ‘self-declaration of freedom from disease’ the words ‘from disease’ was proposed to be deleted to ensure consistency with the use of this defined term in disease-specific chapters. He also noted that the Commission agreed with the recommendation of the ad hoc Group on Aquatic Animal Biosecurity for Aquaculture Establishments to amend the definition for ‘biosecurity plan’ to ensure that it includes aquaculture establishments. Considering the proposed changes to the definition for ‘biosecurity plan’ some amendments were made to the definition for ‘biosecurity’ to ensure alignment.

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the definition for ‘susceptible species’ was amended to ensure it is better aligned with Chapter 1.5. Criteria for listing species as susceptible to infection with a specific pathogen.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption. The revised text was adopted unanimously.

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

Dr Ernst reported that the Aquatic Animals Commission had reviewed the names used for all listed fish diseases in Article 1.3.1. and made changes in line with the accepted convention: ‘infection with pathogenic agent X’.
The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption. The revised text was adopted unanimously.

214. **OIE procedures relevant to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization (Chapter 5.3.)**

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Aquatic Animals Commission had proposed amendments in Chapter 5.3. to ensure alignment with recent amendments to the corresponding chapter of the *Terrestrial Code*, where relevant. The Commission considered Member Country comments and amended the text, as appropriate, to improve readability, whilst ensuring alignment, where relevant, to the corresponding chapter in the *Terrestrial Code*.

Dr Ernst noted that in Article 5.3.1., the Commission had proposed to replace ‘more stringent’ with ‘that exceed’ regarding sanitary measures as the Commission considered that ‘exceed’ was a more appropriate term. They agreed that this proposal should not be made now to ensure alignment between the *Aquatic* and *Terrestrial Codes*. Dr Ernst had discussed this point with the President of the Code Commission and they agreed to reconsider this at a future time.

Dr Ernst commented that amendments had been made in point 4 of Article 5.3.3. and point 2 of Article 5.3.4. for improved readability, and in paragraph 2 of Article 5.3.7. to reflect text in the *Aquatic Code*, noting that there are differences between the *Aquatic* and *Terrestrial Codes* on this point.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption. The revised text was adopted unanimously.

215. **Criteria to assess the safety of aquatic animal commodities (Chapter 5.4.)**

Dr Ernst reported that the Aquatic Animals Commission had considered Member Country comments and amended the text, as appropriate, to improve readability.

Dr Ernst commented that the Commission did not agree with a Member Country comment that products for retail trade should be excluded from the scope of Article 5.4.1. and further clarified that Article 5.4.1. applies to aquatic animal products ‘for any purpose’ and therefore aquatic animal products meeting the criteria in Article 5.4.1. would be safe for retail trade. Dr Ernst reminded Member Countries that Article 5.4.2. applies only to aquatic animal products that are for retail trade for human consumption.

Dr Ernst reported that the Commission did not agree with a Member Country comment that point 1 a) in Article 5.4.1. should be aligned with text in Chapter 2.2. of the *Terrestrial Code* noting that the criteria in Chapter 5.4. of the *Aquatic Code* were developed over a decade ago and have been applied to all disease-specific articles taking into account risk factors associated with determining the safety of assessed aquatic animal products.

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that in response to several Member Country comments, the Commission had agreed to amend criterion 2 in Article 5.4.2. to improve the interpretation of this criterion, by removing the word ‘small’ and instead referring to the intended outcome, i.e. ‘that is unlikely to result in the introduction and establishment of the pathogenic agent’.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption. The revised text was adopted unanimously.
216. **New draft chapter for Infection with Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans (Chapter 8.X.)**

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that since the adoption of *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* as an OIE listed disease, the Commission has been working to finalise a new disease-specific chapter for inclusion in the *Aquatic Code*.

Dr Ernst noted that the proposed list of susceptible species in Article 8.X.2. is based on a recent European Food Safety Authority report. However, as these species have not been assessed against the criteria in Chapter 1.5., the Commission placed these ‘under study’. He also noted that the Commission had requested that an *ad hoc* Group be convened to undertake these assessments.

Dr Ernst reported that in response to a Member Country, the Commission had clarified that Article 8.X.10. does not apply to ornamental or hobby uses because risk management measures would need to be specific for these purposes. The Commission acknowledged that there is a need to develop specific guidance as to how disease risks associated with ornamental trade can be managed.

Dr Ernst noted that the Commission had agreed to put ‘under study’ wherever there is a reference to the corresponding chapter in the *Aquatic Manual*, given that this chapter has not yet been developed.

The Commission did not agree to delete point 4 b) in Articles 8.X.4. and 8.X.5. as it considered that it was important to maintain provisions for returning to freedom following eradication of the disease. Although eradication may be less likely in wild populations, it would be feasible in some situations such as contained populations in public aquaria or zoos.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

Sweden, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, thanked the Aquatic Animals Commission for its work and for having addressed some of their previous comments. The EU supported adoption of this revised chapter but invited the Commission to provide a clear definition for the terms “ornamental or hobby uses” in this chapter given that Article 8.X.10. does not apply to movements of animals for “ornamental and hobby uses”. Sweden also noted that a comment in this regard has been sent to the OIE for consideration by the Aquatic Animals Commission at its next meeting.

Dr Ernst noted this is an important issue especially considering the extensive trade in ornamental aquatic animals and agreed that guidance on risks associated with ornamental animals is very important. He noted that the Commission had included this issue in its work programme. He also noted that given this issue also applies to other OIE listed disease chapters, the Commission will consider this issue more broadly when they undertake this work.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

217. **Infection with Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis (Chapter 8.1.)**

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Commission had applied amendments proposed in the model Articles X.X.8., X.X.9., X.X.10. and X.X.11.
The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption. The revised text was adopted unanimously.

218. **Infection with ranavirus (Chapter 8.2.)**

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Commission had applied amendments proposed in the model Articles X.X.8., X.X.9., X.X.10. and X.X.11.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption. The revised text was adopted unanimously.

219. **Infection with infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus (Chapter 9.4.)**

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Commission had asked the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of Crustacean Species to Infection with OIE Listed Diseases to re-assess the susceptibility of *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* to infection with infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus (IHHNV) against the criteria for listing in Chapter 1.5, taking into account new scientific information that had been provided by a Member Country. On the basis of this re-assessment, the *ad hoc* Group agreed that *M. rosenbergii* did not meet the criteria for listing in the *Aquatic Code* but agreed it should be included in Section 2.2.2 (Species with incomplete evidence for susceptibility) of Chapter 2.2.4. Infection with IHHNV of the *Aquatic Manual*. Dr Ernst noted that the Commission had agreed with the *ad hoc* Group recommendation and amended Article 9.4.2. accordingly.

Dr Ernst reported that the Commission had amended the name of the virus and the genus in Article 9.4.1. in line with the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

Thailand, speaking on behalf of the 32 OIE Members of the Asia-Pacific Region, thanked the Aquatic Animals Commission for their excellent work. Thailand agreed with the proposal of Dr Ernst to delete giant river prawn (*M. rosenbergii*) from Article 9.4.2.

Dr Ernst appreciated the Asia-Pacific Region’s support of the Commission’s work and support for the proposed amendment to this Article.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

220. **Fish disease-specific chapters**

Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis (Chapter 10.1.), Infection with *Aphanomyces invadans* (epizootic ulcerative syndrome) (Chapter 10.2.), Infection with *Gyrodactylus salaris* (Chapter 10.3.), Infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus (Chapter 10.4.), Infection with salmonid alphavirus (Chapter 10.5.), Infectious haematopoietic necrosis (Chapter 10.6.), Infectious haematopoietic necrosis (Chapter 10.6.), Koi herpesvirus disease (Chapter 10.7.), Red sea bream iridoviral disease (Chapter 10.8.), Spring viraemia of carp (Chapter 10.9.) and Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (Chapter 10.10.)

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Aquatic Animals Commission had made changes of a horizontal nature to all fish disease-specific chapters given that work related to susceptible species has commenced in these chapters. He reminded Delegates that this work followed on from similar work already undertaken in all disease-specific crustacean chapters in the *Aquatic Code* which had been adopted at the 2017 General Session.
Dr Ernst reported that the Commission had amended the title and text throughout these chapters to ensure it was in line with proposed amendments to the disease name, i.e. 'infection with pathogenic agent X'.

Dr Ernst reported that the Commission had amended the list of susceptible species in Article X.X.2. of Chapters 10.1. Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis, 10.3. Infection with Gyrodactylus salaris and 10.4. Infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus, after consideration of the work of the ad hoc Group on Susceptibility of fish species to infection with OIE listed diseases. The ad hoc Group had applied the Criteria for listing species as susceptible to infection with a specific pathogen as described in Chapter 1.5.

Dr Ernst noted that the Commission had applied amendments proposed in the model Articles X.X.8, X.X.9., X.X.10. and X.X.11. in all of the fish disease-specific chapters with the exception of Article X.X.8. for G. salaris. Dr Ernst explained that Article 10.3.8. for G. salaris differed from the other fish disease-specific chapters because the model Article X.X.8. did not describe appropriate risk mitigation measures for G. salaris.

Dr Ernst reported that the Commission had deleted the terms ‘ovarian fluid and milt’ listed in point 1 b) of Article 10.4.17. for infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus noting that the most appropriate tissues for detection of infection are provided in the corresponding chapter in the Aquatic Manual.

The President presented the revised texts of Chapters 10.1., 10.2., 10.3., 10.4., 10.5., 10.6., 10.7., 10.8., 10.9. and 10.10. to the Assembly for adoption.

Eritrea, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the OIE Africa Region, sought clarification of the term “lifelong holding” used in Article X.X.8. of disease-specific chapters in the Aquatic Code.

Dr Ernst explained that “lifelong holding” does mean that explicitly. He explained that this Article is for the importation of aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from an OIE listed disease. Dr Ernst explained that aquatic animals of uncertain disease status would not leave the facility alive and would need to be disposed of in a biosecure manner. The only animals that could leave the facility would be progeny of the imported animals after testing to ensure they were free of the pathogenic agent of concern.

Finland, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, noted that none of their previous comments on Chapter 10.3. G. salaris had been taken into consideration by the Commission, but nevertheless supported the adoption of the amendments to this chapter. Finland pointed out that point 2 in Articles 10.3.4. and 10.3.5. as currently worded is not sufficient for declarations of country, zone or compartment freedom for G. salaris because of the existence of susceptible species that do not show clinical signs and therefore would require active surveillance. Finland also asked for clarification of the phrase “conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression”, because the meaning and application of this phrase is not always made sufficiently clear. As this condition is an important requirement for self-declaration, Finland requested the Commission to address this issue at its next meeting.

Dr Ernst responded to Finland noting that this issue relates to the circumstances under which historical freedom can be used to support self-declarations of freedom. For historical freedom to be suitable, passive surveillance must be sufficiently sensitive to detect a disease should it occur. This means that, if the disease were to occur, circumstances must be such that clinical expression of disease would occur and the disease would be observed
and reported. Dr Ernst acknowledged that these issues are complex and apply not only to this chapter but also to all other listed diseases. He advised that the Commission will consider the comments submitted by the EU at its next meeting and that it would be appropriate that they be considered in the context of the work underway to consider the principles for determining periods for demonstration of freedom from listed diseases.

Finland, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, supported the adoption of the amended Chapter 10.10. Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia as proposed. However, Finland noted some inconsistencies in the French translation of the common names of the various trout species, and requested that the OIE review the French version of Article 10.10.2.

Malta, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, supported the adoption of the amended Chapter 10.6. Infectious haematopoietic necrosis as proposed and noted that the EU had sent a comment regarding the list of susceptible species to the OIE for consideration by the Aquatic Animals Commission at its next meeting.

Belgium, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, supported the adoption of the amended Chapter 10.7. Koi herpesvirus disease and Chapter 10.9. Spring viraemia of carp, as proposed. However, Belgium noted there are inconsistencies in the French translation of the common names of the various carp species, and requested that the OIE review the French version of Articles 10.7.2. and 10.9.2. Belgium noted that the EU had submitted these comments in writing to OIE for consideration by the Aquatic Animals Commission at its next meeting.

Dr Ernst thanked the EU for their comments regarding issues with the French translation of some chapters and assured Delegates that the OIE Headquarters would take note of this and amend accordingly. The OIE Director General confirmed the French translations would be reviewed.

The revised texts were adopted unanimously.

221. **Model Articles X.X.8, X.X.9., X.X.10. and X.X.11.**

The Aquatic Animals Commission also agreed to apply, once adopted, model Articles X.X.8., X.X.9., X.X.10. and X.X.11. to all disease-specific chapters in Section 9. Crustacean disease-specific chapters. Dr Ernst noted that the Commission had agreed to make these amendments in the mollusc disease-specific chapters when work on susceptible species commences for these diseases.

The President presented the Model Articles X.X.8, X.X.9., X.X.10. and X.X.11. to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised texts were adopted unanimously.

**AQUATIC MANUAL**

222. **Ad hoc Group on the Aquatic Manual**

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Aquatic Animals Commission had approved the *Aquatic Manual* disease chapter template developed by the *ad hoc* Group (the template was attached as Annex 39 to Doc. 86 SG/12/CS4 B for information). The new template provides an improved structure for the chapters, in particular for case definitions, and information
on validation. A key driver in developing the template has been to ensure that only tests that appear in the table of OIE recommended diagnostic methods are described and these tests are used to determine a suspect or confirmed case. There is a requirement that each test must be validated for use in i) apparently healthy animals and ii) clinically diseased animals.

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that it is intended that all chapters will be thoroughly updated when the new template is applied. When a chapter is identified for update, members of the ad hoc Group would work with the Reference Laboratory experts to apply the template. The Commission identified four diseases to which the template would be initially applied: Infectious haematopoietic necrosis, Red sea bream iridoviral disease, Spring viraemia of carp, and Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia.

Thailand thanked the Aquatic Animals Commission for the remarkable work it has undertaken on both the Aquatic Manual and the Aquatic Code. Thailand observed that some of the technical terms used in the Aquatic Manual are confusing and may cause misunderstanding. For example, the term “organisms” in Section 2.2.2. Species with incomplete evidence for susceptibility of all disease-specific chapters and the term “vaccination” in Section 2.4.1. Vaccination, while the subject of research is not available for crustaceans as they do not have an adaptive immune system. Thailand would submit these comments and proposed amendments to the Aquatic Animals Commission for consideration at its next meeting.

Dr Ernst thanked Thailand for these comments, noting that they were timely. The new Aquatic Manual disease chapter template would be applied to all disease chapters, so it was an opportune time to make any necessary changes to the structure and terminology of the Aquatic Manual before this process begins.

223. **Texts circulated for proposal for adoption**

Dr Ernst reminded the Assembly that the key amendments made to the circulated Aquatic Manual chapters included changes to the susceptible species for each disease and application of the naming convention “infection with [pathogenic agent]” throughout the chapters. Section 2.2.1. Susceptible host species had also been amended following amendments to the lists of susceptible species in the Aquatic Code chapters, and a new Section 2.2.2. Species with incomplete evidence for susceptibility was also being included in Aquatic Manual chapters. The Aquatic Animals Commission had also reviewed chapters to determine the need for any urgent updates particularly to Table 5.1. Methods for targeted surveillance and diagnosis, Section 6. Test(s) recommended for targeted surveillance to declare freedom from [disease name] and the definitions of a suspect and a confirmed case in Section 7. Corroborative diagnostic criteria.

Dr Ernst assured the Assembly that a number of Member Country comments that seemed to not have been addressed would in fact be addressed in future revisions of the disease-specific Aquatic Manual chapters using the new template.

224. **White spot disease (Chapter 2.2.8.)**

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Aquatic Animals Commission had undertaken a review of the chapter on white spot disease as a continuation of its review of all the disease-specific crustacean chapters and in light of the adoption of Chapter 9.8 of the Aquatic Code at last year’s General Session.

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the proposed name, infection with white spot syndrome virus, incorporates the recognised name of the pathogenic agent of white spot disease.
Dr Ernst reported that comments on Section 3.3. *Pooling of samples* and Section 7.2. *Definition of confirmed case*, would be addressed when the chapters are revised using the new template.

The President presented the revised text to the assembly for adoption. The revised text was adopted unanimously.

225. **Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis (Chapter 2.3.1.), Infection with *Gyrodactylus salaris* (Chapter 2.3.3.), Infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus (Chapter 2.3.5.)**

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Aquatic Animals Commission had amended the list of susceptible host species in Section 2.2.2. of these three fish disease chapters. These changes are consistent with the changes made in the *Aquatic Code*, and in consideration of the advice of the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of fish species to infection with OIE listed diseases, which had applied to ‘Criteria for listing species as susceptible to infection with a specific pathogen’ (Chapter 1.5. of the *Aquatic Code*). Dr Ernst reminded Delegates that the Commission is satisfied with the findings of the *ad hoc* Group and thus did not agree with requests for changes to the lists of susceptible host species or the list of species with incomplete evidence for susceptibility.

The Commission also reviewed the three chapters in their entirety and proposed further amendments, in particular to Section 1. *Scope*, to the remainder of Section 2. *Disease information* and to Section 7. *Corroborative diagnostic criteria*. The Commission also harmonised the titles of the chapters with the name of the disease as listed by the OIE (e.g. Infection with HPR-deleted or HPR0 infectious salmon anaemia virus) and ensured the correct use of the disease name throughout the chapters.

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that for Chapters 2.3.1. and 2.3.5., the Commission had added a new paragraph to Section 2.2.2. regarding species in which pathogen-specific positive PCR results have been reported but an active infection has not been demonstrated. The list of species proposed was assessed by the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of fish species to infection with OIE listed diseases.

Dr Ernst reported that in Chapter 2.3.5., the term “infection with ISAV” refers to infection with both HPR0 and HPR-deleted ISAV while clinical disease only occurs with HPR-deleted variants. To eliminate any potential confusion, the Commission had amended the text throughout the chapter to improve clarity, for example by inserting “HPR-deleted” into “infection with ISAV” where relevant.

The President presented the revised texts to the Assembly for adoption.

Finland, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, commended the Commission on its work and supported the adoption of the amendments to Chapter 2.3.3. Infection with *Gyrodactylus salaris*. However, Finland noted that there is evidence of mixed pathogenicity of *G. salaris*, with reports in Europe of some strains that are pathogenic to rainbow trout and not Atlantic salmon and vice versa. Finland therefore requested the Aquatic Animals Commission to consider changes to the scope.
Dr Ernst thanked Finland for its comments on Chapter 2.3.3. and informed Finland that the Aquatic Animals Commission will review the comments at its next meeting. He also asked the EU to provide the supportive scientific evidence on this issue.

United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, supported adoption of Chapter 2.3.5. Infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus as proposed but noted that the EU had sent comments to the OIE for consideration by the Aquatic Animals Commission at their its meeting.

Dr Ernst thanked the United Kingdom for its comments on Chapter 2.3.5. and noted that the Aquatic Animals Commission will review these at its next meeting.

The revised texts were adopted unanimously.

226. Infection with infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus (Chapter 2.2.3.)

Dr Ernst noted that no Member Country comments had been received on the proposal to move Macrobrachium rosenbergii from Section 2.2.1. Susceptible host species to Section 2.2.2. Species with incomplete evidence for susceptibility following an assessment of the ad hoc Group on Susceptibility of crustacean species to infection with OIE listed diseases.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption. The revised text was adopted unanimously.

227. Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (Chapter 2.2.1.)

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that no Member Country comments had been received regarding the proposed addition of Penaeus japonicus to Section 2.2.2. Species with incomplete evidence for susceptibility.

The Aquatic Animals Commission did not agree with a proposal to add the words “or other bacterial strains carrying the plasmid that are capable of producing the infection” after the words “Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (AHPND) means infection with strains of Vibrio parahaemolyticus (VpAHPND)” in the scope of the chapter. The Commission reviewed the published literature on AHPND and found that Vibrio parahaemolyticus remains the only bacterial species for which there is sound evidence as a causative agent of the disease.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

228. Texts circulated for Member Country comments

Dr Ernst reminded Delegates that the following texts have been revised and circulated to Member Countries for their comments in the Aquatic Animals Commission February 2018 meeting report. Dr Ernst reminded Delegates that all comments received before the deadline of 30 July 2018 will be considered by the Commission at its September 2018 meeting.

For the Aquatic Code: Glossary, Criteria for listing species as susceptible (Chapter 1.5.), Infection with salmonid alphavirus (Chapter 10.5.), Koi herpesvirus disease (Chapter 10.7.) and Spring viraemia of carp (Chapter 10.9.).

For the Aquatic Manual: Infection with salmonid alphavirus (Chapter 2.3.6.), Koi herpesvirus disease (Chapter 2.3.7.) and Infection with yellow head virus genotype 1 (Chapter 2.2.9.)
Dr Ernst noted that details regarding the rationale for these revised texts can be found in the February 2018 Report of the Commission, which is available on the OIE website. Dr Ernst encouraged Delegates to participate in the OIE standard-setting process through the provision of written comments to the OIE.

229. Reference Centres

Dr Ernst, on behalf of the Aquatic Animals Commission, expressed his ongoing appreciation for the support and expert advice provided to the OIE by the Reference Centres.

Following review of the dossiers, the Commission recommended acceptance of six new applications for OIE Reference Laboratory status and one for OIE Collaborating Centre status.

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Commission had approved the proposed change of the designated expert at the OIE Reference Laboratory for Taura syndrome at the Aquaculture Pathology Laboratory, School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences, University of Arizona, United States of America: Dr Arun K. Dhar to replace Dr Kathy Tang-Nelson. Dr Ernst also thanked Dr Tang-Nelson for her valuable contribution to the OIE as Reference Laboratory expert for this and other crustacean diseases. Following the Commission’s meeting, Dr Dhar’s nomination was endorsed by the Council on behalf of the Assembly.

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that there are currently no OIE Reference Laboratories for Infection with Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis or Infection with Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans and invited applications from Member Countries where expertise exists for these amphibian diseases.

Dr Ernst reminded the Delegates that in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) adopted last May, laboratories that had not achieved accreditation to ISO 17025, or equivalent quality management system, would have their OIE Reference Laboratory status suspended, with the possibility to reinstate it within two years should they achieve accreditation in that time. Laboratories that have still not achieved accreditation two years after suspension would have to re-apply for OIE Reference Laboratory status, once accreditation is achieved.

The Commission had reviewed the annual reports and identified laboratories from which further information on accreditation was required, either because they had not attached an accreditation certificate or the certificate did not include information on the scope of accreditation. The Commission reviewed further information provided by these laboratories and decided that two laboratories should be suspended because they had not provided evidence of accreditation. Four further laboratories had requested to be removed from the list.

As a result of the application of the SOPs, there would be further gaps in the diseases covered by the OIE Reference Laboratory network and once again, Dr Ernst invited applications from Member Countries where expertise exists.

230. Future work

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the next OIE Global conference on aquatic animal health will be held in Santiago, Chile, from 9 to 11 April 2019. The Aquatic Animals Commission is excited about this event which will provide an opportunity for OIE Member Countries to engage on important aquatic animal health issues.
Dr Ernst also informed the Assembly that the Commission, at each meeting, reviews and updates its work plan, taking into account Member Countries’ comments, Headquarters’ comments, and completed work. Dr Ernst reminded Delegates that the work plan provides them with an overview of current and upcoming activities.

231. Australia noted that as there was no OIE programme for official declaration of freedom from aquatic animal diseases, the process for self-declaration of freedom was fundamentally important for demonstrating aquatic animal disease status. Australia noted that the new ‘Procedure for submission of a self-declaration for disease freedom for publication by the OIE’ had been finalised without consultation with Member Countries. These guidelines did not provide detailed guidance on the format and content of dossiers for self-declaration of freedom from listed diseases. Australia requested that the Aquatic Animals Commission consider development of specific guidance on the format and evidence required for self-declarations of freedom. Australia suggested that this work could be completed in conjunction with the Commission’s current work to define the principles for demonstrating disease freedom. Australia believed that these two work proposals are complementary and together could substantially improve the Aquatic Code standards in relation to self-declaration of freedom.

232. Dr Ernst thanked Australia and stated that the Delegate was correct to note that there was currently no official recognition of freedom from aquatic animal diseases. Dr Ernst also agreed on the need for detailed guidance for self declarations, which are fundamental for demonstration of freedom from aquatic animal diseases. The Aquatic Animals Commission noted this issue in its report. Dr Ernst pointed out that the current procedure included references to the provisions of the Terrestrial Code; new guidance in the Aquatic Code may lead to a need to revise the procedure document to ensure consistency.

233. Indonesia thanked the OIE for its Twinning Programme and noted that many candidate laboratories go on to achieve OIE Reference Laboratory status. Indonesia recently completed two twinning projects: one with Japan for koi herpesvirus disease and one with the United States of America for infection with infectious myonecrosis virus. Indonesia would shortly submit applications to the Aquatic Animals Commission for recognition of these laboratories as OIE Reference Laboratories for these diseases.

Dr Ernst thanked Indonesia and agreed that the OIE Twinning Programme is an excellent tool and has achieved many welcome outcomes. He informed Indonesia that the Aquatic Animals Commission would evaluate any applications submitted.

234. Republic of Korea reported that it had undertaken a Twinning Project with Denmark for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia, which had been successfully completed and the candidate Korean laboratory would be proposed for adoption as an OIE Reference Laboratory at this General Session. Republic of Korea thanked both the OIE and Denmark.

Dr Ernst thanked the Republic of Korea and congratulated the Republic of Korea and Denmark on the successful completion of the Twinning Project.

235. Chile thanked the Commission for its excellent work and its progress on the work plan, especially on susceptible species. Chile is particularly interested in work on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and emerging diseases and would like to continue sharing Chile’s experience on these issues, and also proposed a standing working group be established to manage emerging diseases. Chile thanked the OIE for giving it the opportunity to host the next Global Conference on aquatic animal health.
236. Dr Ernst thanked Chile for its comments on susceptible species and noted that a huge amount of work had been undertaken by the ad hoc Group. He agreed that AMR and emerging diseases were important issues. In response to the proposal for the establishment of a standing working group on emerging diseases, Dr Ernst referred this to the Director General but noted that, with regard to Tilapia lake virus (TiLV), the Commission believed that the ad hoc Group had developed an excellent mechanism for international collaboration to respond to the challenges presented by emerging diseases by employing the OIE Reference Centres network. Dr Ernst also thanked Chile for offering to host the Global Conference.

237. Dr Eloit thanked Dr Ernst and Aquatic Animal Commission members for the excellent work achieved during the past 3 years. She also thanked Chile for offering to host the OIE Global Conference. Dr Eloit emphasised the OIE's commitment to aquatic animal issues and noted the importance of this topic to OIE Member Countries.

238. The Assembly noted the report of the Aquatic Animals Commission.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 30
Designation of OIE Reference Laboratories for aquatic animal diseases

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

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 31
Suspension of OIE Reference Laboratory status for aquatic animal diseases

240. 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.

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Group (contd)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

241. Dr Etienne Bonbon, President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission), welcomed delegates on behalf of all the Code Commission members and noted that he was looking forward to fruitful discussions during the meeting. Special reference was made to the condensed version of the Code Commission report, which had been tabled for the Delegates.

242. Dr Bonbon expressed appreciation to all involved in preparing the Code Commission reports, and in developing the new text or revised text to be proposed for adoption at the General Session. Dr Bonbon also expressed the appreciation of the Code Commission to the retiring vice-president, Professor Stuart MacDiarmid, for his service as a member of the Code Commission for more than 20 years. During that time he has contributed to the development of the many standards, in addressing trade-related issues faced by Member Countries. Throughout his time in the Code Commission he has demonstrated great integrity, resilience, commitment and persistence, and he will be remembered for his commitment and dedication to OIE standard-setting activities. He asked the Assembly to join him in thanking Professor MacDiarmid for his work.

243. Dr Bonbon then stressed that the standard-setting process could not be effective without the participation of Member Countries. In that respect, he expressed appreciation for the large number of comments that had been submitted in the past year, and for the improvement of quality and scientific justification of these comments, not only by Member Countries (including countries having never sent comments before, such as New Caledonia and Fiji), but also by organisations that had a cooperation agreement with the OIE. He reiterated that the Code Commission strongly encourages 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. He emphasised that once the Member Countries have adopted the standards at the General Session, they should implement them. Hence the need for them to actively engage in their drafting process.

244. Dr Bonbon noted that greater awareness, understanding and use of the *Terrestrial Code* were as important for safe trade facilitation and sustained economic development as for good governance, capacity and sustainability of Veterinary Services. He therefore reiterated that promotion of the adoption and implementation of OIE standards by all Member Countries should be an integral part of the broader agenda of the Assembly at the national and international levels, including through the OIE, and that in the future this would be supported by the development of the Observatory by the OIE. The Code Commission was looking forward to continuing to strengthen the standards implementation activities of the OIE.

245. **Update of the Code Commission work programme**

Dr Bonbon presented the work programme of the Code Commission and invited Member Countries to provide comments and feedback on this programme, annexed to the Code Commission February 2018 meeting report. Dr Bonbon expressed appreciation to those Member Countries that took the time to provide comments on the work programme and highlighted that efforts were being made to prioritise the Commission’s agenda, notably in order to reduce the heavy workload of the Commission and the burden on Member Countries trying to provide comments on the large volume of draft and revised chapters.

Dr Bonbon drew the attention of Member Countries to the following priority lists under the Commission’s work programme expected to be considered at its next meeting in September 2018. Noting the relevance of its activities to the subjects identified in these priority lists, the Code Commission invited Member Countries to submit their comments in writing for consideration by the Commission’s next meeting in September 2018.

Noting the forthcoming election of Members of the Specialist Commissions, Dr Bonbon stated that the Code Commission expected to map out its work plan at its meeting in September 2018 and refine the priorities on the work programme for 2018–2021.

Dr Bonbon urged Member Countries to conduct their own analysis of the work programme of the Code Commission and how it would affect the implementation of standards at the national level, and submit the comments to the Code Commission for consideration before its September 2018 meeting.

Dr Bonbon then stated that new topics being proposed for inclusion in the work programme would be assessed by the Code Commission against the guiding principles before its inclusion and prioritisation. He highlighted again the need for strengthened coordination through the Secretariat and across all the Specialist Commissions, notably regarding identification and utilisation of the necessary expertise, including ad hoc Groups, Reference Laboratories, and Collaborating Centres, to support standards development.

In line with the planned general framework of actions in the specific work programme and taking into account the priority order, the input from the OIE Headquarters and the other Specialist Commissions, the outcome of the Code Commission meetings, and having
discussed Member Countries comments and expectations, Dr Bonbon outlined some of the main issues that needed to be addressed as a priority during the coming year:

- revision of Chapter 1.4. on animal health surveillance;

- revision of Section 3 on quality of veterinary services in light of the PVS Think Tank held in 2017, and the work of other ad hoc Groups related to this section;

- restructuring and developing Section 4 on disease prevention and control; the ongoing revision of Chapter 4.3. on zoning and the addition of three new chapters respectively on introduction to disease prevention and control, vaccination and outbreak management, should be followed by a revision of Chapter 4.13. on disinfection and dissection;

- revision of relevant listed disease-specific chapters in section 8 to 15, notably Chapter 8.14. on rabies, Chapter 10.4. on avian influenza and Chapter 11.4. on bovine spongiform encephalopathy, while work will continue on chapters already under revision, such as trypanosomiases.

Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that in September the Code Commission would also continue to work on animal welfare and the additional new or revised texts addressing the work on several chapters that had been provided for Member Countries’ comment in Part B of the Code Commission’s February 2018 meeting report.

Dr Bonbon noted the new chapters on official recognition of status (Chapters 1.7. to 1.12.) that had been proposed for adoption and informed the Assembly that substantive work on the procedures for self-declaration being done by the OIE Headquarters will have consequences for the Terrestrial Code and that a further revised Chapter 1.6. on procedures for self-declaration and official recognition was also provided for comments. He further noted the revised chapter on rabies and the proposals from the ad hoc Group on Avian Influenza would also be considered in September 2018.

Dr Bonbon also reminded Members that the report of the Code Commission is in two parts, the introductory part containing the rationale for the changes in the annexes, and it was important to look at the reports of both the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission. He further noted that the rationale is often based on the reports of the ad hoc Groups and that the OIE has updated the website so these reports are readily accessible. There might be a difference of opinion between these, but it is important to read all the reports in conjunction with each other.

Dr Bonbon then invited the Assembly to react to his presentation

New Zealand, speaking on behalf of the QUADS countries, supported the work programme and commented on the ambitious nature of it noting there were 29 annexes proposed for adoption along with an additional nine chapters for Members to comment on. New Zealand further noted that this increased the Delegate’s workload. New Zealand also recalled that the Code Commission in its September 2017 report had agreed that work would stop on disease-specific chapters where the disease was not an OIE listed-disease and that this appeared not to be the case as salmonella in pigs was not an OIE listed-disease. Finally, New Zealand stated that the Members hoped to see a more reasonable work programme in the future.

France, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, thanked the Code Commission for taking into account previous comments on the work programme. The EU expressed their appreciation for the open-mindedness of the Code Commission in asking for comments on its work programme and noted the President’s detailed explanation of the
work programme encouraged Members to take part in this work. The EU reiterated its commitment to support the work of the Commissions and the ad hoc Groups. In thanking the OIE for improving the coordination between the Commissions, the EU congratulated the OIE for launching the work on the revision of the avian influenza chapter and in particular on the initiative of submitting the proposals of the ad hoc Group to the Members for comment.

The EU took note of the revision of the BSE chapter being prepared by an ad hoc Group, but regretted that no concrete progress has been made in this field, given the urgent need to review the requirements regarding surveillance and that the epidemiological situation has significantly improved. Noting that this will have a significant impact on the annual reconfirmation of countries, and understanding that this work depends on the resources and capacities of the OIE Headquarters, the EU reiterated the importance of this work and requested the ad hoc Group be convened as soon as possible.

Finally, as regards the glossary definitions of wildlife and feral/captive wild/wild animals, the EU in general noted some difficulties of Member Countries in interpreting the exact meaning and delimitation of “direct human supervision or control”. This is relevant for example in the context of the Terrestrial Code chapter on ASF, and has potential important consequences for international trade. The EU invited the Code Commission to provide some clarifications in this respect, including possible amendments of the relevant glossary definitions, with a view to facilitating the correct and consistent interpretation and implementation of the OIE recommendations relating to wildlife.

Australia, speaking on behalf of the 32 OIE Members of the Asia-Pacific Region, noted that porcine epidemic diarrhoea (PED) is a globally active disease having significant impacts on animal health and resulting in heavy economic losses. The members of the region encouraged the ad hoc Group considering diseases against the OIE listing criteria to closely evaluate PED as listing the disease would facilitate its global control.

Republic of Korea, speaking on behalf of the 32 OIE Members of the Asia-Pacific Region, requested that the Code Commission consider written comments regarding the final paragraph in Article 15.1.3. in the chapter on ASF. The spread of ASF across Europe is of concern. The OIE standards on ASF need to be based on the best available science. The Republic of Korea urged the Commission to ensure that the standards specify the most appropriate scientifically based risk management measures.

Bhutan, speaking on behalf of the 32 OIE Members of the Asia-Pacific Region, supported the work programme and aligned itself with the comments of the QUADS countries.

Argentina supported the comments of the Asia-Pacific region in regard to the listing of PED.

Japan, speaking on behalf of the 32 OIE Members of the Asia-Pacific Region, expressed appreciation for the work of the OIE Headquarters on avian influenza noting this is a complicated topic and highlighted the importance of avian influenza in public health and the risk of the evolution of the avian influenza virus from low pathogenicity to high pathogenicity. Japan further noted that the OIE should continue asking Member Countries’ for their views from time to time and look at these opinions carefully. The proposed amendments bring significant change in controlling avian influenza and any amendments should be based on sufficient and accessible scientific rationale.

In response, Dr Bonbon thanked the Delegates for the comments in support of the work programme. He highlighted that the ambitious work programme is due to the number of requests from Member Countries, and that regarding the number of chapters proposed for adoption, a large number have only minor but important modifications. In regard to Salmonella, he agreed it is not a listed disease, but it is in Section 6 of the Terrestrial Code on Veterinary public health and noted it is important to work on topics that require interactions with other organisations, especially standard-setting organisations such as the
Codex Alimentarius, although this topic is not currently the highest priority. Concerning BSE, he advised that the Code Commission had been informed by OIE Headquarters that an *ad hoc* Group on BSE will be convened. Regarding the EU comment on Chapter 6.9., he noted their concerns, but noted that the chapter had been adopted quite recently and its implementation as it stands would vastly benefit all Members. He also recalled that Dr Brückner had explained the approach when considering listing of PED and a number of other diseases, which would include a group of independent experts looking at the history and all the literature on the disease against the criteria of Chapter 1.2. On the approach used to communicate the outcomes of the *ad hoc* Group on AI, he noted that the Code Commission should continue to work in this way.

The Director General informed the Assembly that the *ad hoc* Group on BSE risk assessment has already been established, the terms of reference and working documents are on the OIE website and the first meeting will be held from 3 to 5 July 2018 at the OIE Headquarters. She further noted that the *ad hoc* Group on BSE status is also planned for 29 to 31 October 2018.

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

Dr Bonbon resumed the presentation on the Code Commission’s report by describing the 28 new or updated *Terrestrial Code* texts that would be discussed and were being proposed for adoption during the course of the week.

He thanked again Member Countries for their active participation in the standard-setting work of the OIE. However, the Code Commission continued to encourage further participation of Member Countries, especially from those who have never participated or that had only recently started to provide comments.

Dr Bonbon presented the following texts to the Assembly for adoption. Dr Bonbon reminded Delegates that the proposed modifications 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, and that 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 2018 meeting would be discussed at the next meeting of the Code Commission in September 2018, together with any new Member Country comments on the report of the February 2018 meeting. Dr Bonbon noted that, unlike in the past, comments received at this General Session would not automatically be considered by the September 2018 meeting of the Code Commission, but should be submitted in writing to the OIE by the deadline of 12 July 2018, this would ensure that the new Commission was fully informed of the Member Countries concerns raised during the Assembly.

247. **User’s guide**

During the 85th General Session, Member Countries raised the concern that there was a need to better clarify the purpose and scope of newly developed Chapters 6.12. and 6.13. on prevention and control of *Salmonella* in commercial bovine and pig production systems. The Code Commission proposed that the issue would be better addressed in the User’s guide and amended the paragraph in point 4 of Section C.

At the September 2017 meeting, the Code Commission also added a new sentence indicating that the dates of first adoption and last revision of a chapter are noted at the end of each chapter, and this will assist Member Countries in their implementation of the latest version of the chapters.
Dr Bonbon presented the revised User’s Guide to the Assembly.

The President confirmed that a quorum had been achieved and the revised text as proposed was adopted unanimously.

248. Glossary

At its February 2016 meeting, the Code Commission made proposals to align several definitions, i.e. zone/region, free zone, containment zone, infected zone and protection zone, in the Glossary, with the definitions included in the revised Chapter 4.3. on zoning and compartmentalisation, which will also be proposed for adoption.

The Code Commission in its general review of the Glossary noted inconsistencies between the current definitions of some terms and their actual meaning in various chapters at its September 2016 meeting. In order to remove these inconsistencies it began work on revision of definitions for 'animal welfare', ‘disease’, ‘vaccination’ and ‘compartment’.

Dr Bonbon explained to the Delegates that at the 4th Global OIE Conference on Animal Welfare held in Guadalajara (Mexico) in December 2016, the former Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG) discussed the need to update the current definition of ‘animal welfare’ in the Terrestrial Code. For the Code Commission, the purpose of modifying the definition of animal welfare is to provide a more concise and accurate definition in the Glossary, but the technical and descriptive text would remain in Article 7.1.1., also proposed for adoption.

There were conflicting views among Member Countries as to whether the definition of ‘disease’ should be removed from the Glossary. However, Dr Bonbon stressed that the dictionary definition of ‘disease’ is more appropriate than that in the Glossary. He reiterated that the deletion of the definition of the term disease from the Glossary would not mean it would not be used elsewhere in the Terrestrial Code. It would only be a change in formatting, the term no longer appearing in italics throughout the Terrestrial Code except within the defined terms ‘listed disease’ and ‘emerging disease’.

It was also noted that the proposed deletion of ‘transparency’ from the Glossary is of a purely editorial nature as it now only appears in chapter 2.2. on import risk analysis.

Argentina noted that in its view the new definition proposed for ‘compartment’ is too vague as it does not specify that the sanitary status within the compartment should be free. Argentina further noted that the adoption of the definition as proposed could lead to ambiguous interpretations and generate difficulties when establishing trade requirements. It further stated that, a compartment can only be established so that the population has a ‘higher’ status than that of the population that surrounds it. In order to address its concerns Argentina proposed that the definition be modified as it considers that the distinction needed to be made.

Ghana, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the OIE African Region, proposed to amend the text to emphasise that the production system can also be a risk factor in the establishment of a zone or compartment.

Gabon, speaking on behalf of 54 Members of the African Union and the OIE African Region, expressed the view that welfare already describes a positive condition, hence there may not be the need to qualify ‘welfare’ as ‘good welfare’. The Delegate further noted that the Terrestrial Code refers to a good state of welfare, hence Africa suggests that the original definition be maintained.
Malawi, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the OIE African Region in regards to the amended text on containment zone wording, noted that requiring all outbreaks with an epidemiological link to be within a single containment zone is problematic when disease outbreaks are 200 kilometres apart. He suggested it needs to be clarified that more than one containment zone can be established, even if the outbreaks are not epidemiologically linked.

Nigeria, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the OIE African Region, proposed rewording the definition of compartment as it refers to an animal sub-population and a zoonotic status for which surveillance and control measures have been applied for disease control or for international trade. A disease can be controlled in one or more facilities according to standard procedure.

Spain, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, thanked the Code Commission for taking into account previous comments on the revised glossary definitions. However, in regard to the definition of compartment and the wording “separated from other populations” Spain considered that it only applies to susceptible species and proposed that ‘susceptible’ be inserted before ‘populations’.

Benin, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the OIE African Region, proposed to amend the definition of vaccination in order to take into account precautions linked to the physiological state of the animal, i.e. pregnancy.

Brazil expressed its support for the Commission in its work, and requested clarification from the President of the Code Commission as to whether there was a definition of the term ‘importation’ in the Code or information that would describe the import of animal products, including illegal imports, as this was needed.

Dr Bonbon noted that some of the comments were related to the chapter on animal welfare (7.1.) and the draft chapter on animal welfare in pig production (7.X.) and will be addressed when dealing with those chapters. Regarding the definition itself, animal welfare is defined as a state, which can be either good or bad. He noted that there had been lengthy discussion on how to describe the non-physical aspects of this state, and that the term ‘mental state’ was the best way to describe them and that it could be assessed scientifically. The definition had been developed with the advice of experts and the references can be found in the reports. It would not be appropriate to amend now the definition that will be used in the other animal welfare chapters.

In response to the Members’ comments on the definition of compartment, Dr Bonbon agreed to add the word ‘susceptible’ for clarity. In response to the proposals to rewrite and reorder the wording in definitions, Dr Bonbon noted it was not possible to do this during the General Session. Noting the comments of Argentina and Africa, Dr Bonbon proposed that the Code Commission look at this in more detail in the future, in the framework of the ongoing work on Section 4. He further noted that the comment of Benin applied to the chapter rather than the definition.

Dr Bonbon clarified that the Code did not currently contain a definition of importation or illegal importation, and invited Brazil to send written comments to the OIE regarding this question.

In response to Malawi, Dr Bonbon stated that there could be more than one containment zone, but to have more than one they must have nothing in common; if they are epidemiologically linked it means that the disease is not contained. The idea is that the zone includes all the events that are linked; if the events are not linked then they are different zones. The objective of a containment zone is to prove that the disease has been contained, i.e. did not spread hundreds of kilometres.
Dr Bonbon presented the revised text of the Glossary to the Assembly.

The revised text was adopted unanimously with the following amendment to the definition of compartment to add the word “susceptible” between “other” and “populations” and with the understanding that the Code Commission would continue to work on the concept of compartments.

249. Diseases, infections and infestations listed by the OIE (Articles 1.3.1., 1.3.2. and 1.3.5.)

At its meeting in February 2018, the Code Commission noted that following the adoption of new and revised chapters of the Terrestrial Code, there were inconsistencies in the naming of some listed diseases, between the listed disease-specific chapters and the list in Chapter 1.3. As a result, the Code Commission proposed editorial amendments to the relevant articles to address these inconsistencies.

United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, supported the adoption of the chapter and noted that in the future it might be more appropriate when a disease-specific chapter with a modified title is adopted, to update the chapter simultaneously.

Dr Bonbon proposed to amend Article 1.3.4. by replacing “Glanders” with “Infection with Burkholderia mallei (Glanders)”; once the disease chapter was adopted it would appear in alphabetical order after Infection with African horse sickness virus.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised text was adopted unanimously, with the amendment proposed by Dr Bonbon.

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

At the request of the OIE Headquarters, and following the work of the Scientific Commission, the Code Commission began work on the revision of Chapter 1.6. during its February 2017 meeting.

At its meeting in September 2017, the Code Commission requested that the OIE prepare the questionnaires as a separate chapter for each disease because, in its opinion, Chapter 1.6. should only cover the procedures and it considered that this approach would facilitate any future revisions of the questionnaires in a more efficient and effective manner.

At its meeting in February 2018, the Code Commission considered the separate chapters (questionnaires) prepared for each disease by the OIE Headquarters, with the assistance of Prof. MacDiarmid and noted the proposed new chapters were now easier to read, much better aligned, consistent with terminology used throughout the Terrestrial Code, and this would greatly assist Member Countries in compiling their dossiers.

The Code Commission noted that the revised Chapter 1.6. contained editorial amendments and had been prepared with a view to the adoption of the proposed new chapters (questionnaires), this revision shows the deletion of the references to Articles 1.6.5. to 1.6.13. replaced by references to the proposed draft new Chapters 1.7. to 1.12. The Code Commission also proposed, in agreement with the Scientific Commission, that in future these questionnaires could be taken out of the Terrestrial Code to facilitate their revision.

Dr Bonbon presented both the revised text and six new chapters (questionnaires) to the Assembly. Dr Bonbon noted that these could be adopted at this General Session and, after some experience of their use has been gained, they could be further revised.
Senegal, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the OIE African Region, thanked the OIE for developing this introduction to issues related to self-declaration and status recognition, making the concept much clearer, as well as for preparing the separate chapters formalised in respect of applications for status recognition. However, Africa recommended that the format of the questionnaires should be simplified into bullet points for easier reading and to ensure that users do not miss important requirements.

Hungary, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, supported the work, and noted that it had submitted comments for consideration by the Code Commission in the future.

The United States of America speaking on behalf of the QUADS countries, appreciated the comments of Dr Bonbon but would encourage the Code Commission to follow its process and procedures in the future. QUADS supported the adoption of chapters 1.6 and 1.7 through 1.12.

Gambia, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the OIE African Region, proposed to amend the definition of equine sectors in Chapter 1.7 for clarity.

Colombia, speaking on behalf of the 30 OIE Members of the Americas Region, supported the comments of the QUADS countries.

Ireland, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, reiterated the comments of Hungary and further stated that these chapters should remain in the Terrestrial Code.

Dr Bonbon thanked Members for their support. He also hoped that the new Commission would follow the process and procedures for development of the standards. In response to other Member comments, he noted that the questionnaires have a specificity in the Terrestrial Code, they are a tool to evaluate the status of the Members, they are used every year by the Member Countries and the Scientific Commission to assess applications. It is likely that they will need to be amended, and they should be re-examined after implementation to assess that they are fit for purpose.

The President of the Assembly noted the commitment to submit further comments and review of the questionnaires.

The revised chapter 1.6 and the new chapters 1.7 to 1.12 were adopted unanimously.

251. **Import risk analysis (Article 2.1.1.)**

It was noted that as a consequence of removal of the definition of ‘transparency’ from the Glossary, the Code Commission removed the italics from the word ‘transparency’ in Article 2.1.1. and inserted a sentence defining transparency.

Uganda, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the OIE African Region, proposed, for the sake of clarity and consistency, to replace “degree” with “certain level” and to include “infestations” after “infections”.

Belgium, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, supported the intervention of Uganda.

Dr Bonbon noted that the French version used the term “certain niveau” and proposed to amend the English version as proposed by Uganda for consistency. He also proposed to replace “or infections” with “, infections or infestations”.
The United Arab Emirates asked if it could be considered in the future to draft recommendations or a chapter on integrated risk analysis rather than a chapter only on import risk analysis. Dr Bonbon invited the United Arab Emirates to submit the proposal to the OIE Headquarters in writing for consideration.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised text was adopted unanimously, as amended.

252. **Criteria applied by the OIE for assessing the safety of commodities (Chapter 2.2.)**

During the 85th General Session, Member Countries raised concerns about the inconsistency between Articles 2.2.1. and 2.2.2. The Code Commission amended the text to include a clear cross-reference between Articles 2.2.1. and 2.2.2.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised text was adopted as proposed, unanimously.

253. **Zoning and compartmentalisation (Chapter 4.3.)**

At the request of Member Countries and in agreement with the Scientific Commission to develop new concepts or revise existing concepts for zoning in the *Terrestrial Code*, the Code Commission started new work on revision and restructuring of this chapter, along with the revision of related Glossary definitions.

The first draft text was presented and discussed at the February 2016 Code Commission meeting and other modifications were made in subsequent meetings, addressing numerous constructive comments from Member Countries.

The Code Commission, however, noted in its last meetings strong opposition to the proposal to include new text on the concept of ‘temporary protection zone’ from several Member Countries and, after discussion and in agreement with the Scientific Commission, it considered that the concept of ‘temporary protection zone’ should not preclude this chapter from being presented for adoption. The paragraphs relating to the concept were deleted from Article 4.3.6. It was noted that the Specialist Commissions, together with relevant experts, would further discuss the issue in order to clarify how to manage this type of zone that had been proposed to address specific problems for specific parts of the world.

Apart from that issue, the Code Commission noted that there was wide support by the Member Countries for the revised chapter.

Australia speaking on behalf of the QUADS countries, supported the adoption of the revised chapter, and reiterated a previous written comment from Australia relating to the importance of this chapter to international trade. The QUADS agreed that this chapter is of crucial importance for disease control; it is equally critical for international trade. There is increasing reliance on transboundary food supply chains and a focus on continuity of trade, so supporting continued safe trade during disease events is of interest to most countries. The QUADS encouraged the Code Commission to be mindful of this dual purpose during further development of this chapter.

Hungary, speaking on behalf of the 53 European Members of the OIE, noted that the chapter would facilitate implementation of the concept of zoning and compartmentalisation and facilitate safe trade.
Namibia, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the OIE African Region, proposed to amend the text to emphasise that production systems can also be a risk factor in the establishment of a zone or compartment.

Brazil, speaking on behalf of the 30 OIE Members of the Americas Region, congratulated the Code and the Scientific Commissions, as well as the relevant ad hoc Groups for their work in updating this chapter. Brazil further noted the support of the region for the deletion of paragraphs on the proposed new concept of “temporary protection zone”, as this concept needs more careful study in order to determine the merit of its inclusion in this chapter.

Argentina reiterated its gratitude for the work done. The chapter provides useful tools for prevention and control. Argentina noted the comments of the African countries and Dr Bonbon on the number of containment zones in the definition, considered that it should be explicit in the chapter, and said it would submit written comments for the September Code Commission meeting.

Thailand also considered that the chapter is important for disease control and trade facilitation, and the OIE should consider providing guidance on the specific types of activities that should be undertaken for each type of zone. Thailand also noted that it would submit written comments for the September meeting.

Madagascar, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the OIE African Region, proposed amendments to ensure that other forms of bioexclusions and live animals are included in the biosecurity measures in containment zones.

Dr Bonbon agreed that if all the chapters in this section of the Terrestrial Code are meant for disease prevention and control, obviously they also have a direct impact on trade, and it is essential to bear this in mind when the chapters are discussed. Dr Bonbon also thanked Members for supporting the adoption of the chapter and confirmed that, concerning temporary protection zone and more than one containment zone, there was a need for the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission to continue to work on this in September. He further noted that there was also a need to think about whether the additional guidance proposed by Thailand was appropriate for inclusion in the chapter, as details might be better placed elsewhere, maybe in a specific chapter on application of zoning. In response to Madagascar, Dr Bonbon noted that disinfection is a defined term in the glossary and includes cleaning and disinsection, and that the term vehicle/vessel is also defined and includes means of transport of live animals, but not those used for animal products. Finally, he invited Namibia to submit its proposal in writing to the OIE Headquarters.

The President of the Assembly noted that there is a commitment from many delegations to submit written comments and encouraged them to submit them by 12 July 2018.

Botswana, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the OIE African Region, noted that in Article 8.8.6. in the FMD chapter mention is made that a containment zone needs to be approved by the OIE (Scientific Commission). No mention is made in Article 4.3.7. of the need for this requirement. Africa suggests that consideration should be given to include text in this regard consistent with Article 8.8.6. Dr Bonbon clarified that this chapter is about any disease; for some specific diseases, e.g. FMD, the OIE approves the status for the zone, but for the others it does not, and Chapter 4.3. should therefore remain general.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.
254. **Collection and processing of in vitro produced embryos from livestock and horses (Chapter 4.8.)**

A Member Country submitted a proposal to seek expert advice on the risks associated with trade of in vitro produced embryos and the IETS\(^{31}\) provided a proposal to modify the text of Article 4.8.7. on conditions applicable to the storage and transport of embryos at the September 2016 Code Commission meeting.

The Code Commission further revised the text addressing Member Countries’ comments that provide for consistency and further clarity in the provisions of the chapter.

Dr Bonbon reiterated his call for more data on risk management relating to in vitro produced embryos, in order to further update the chapter and provide better guidance to the Member Countries.

Australia referred to the recent work of IETS regarding tests for ensuring that in vitro produced embryos do not transmit disease and noted that they expected more up-to-date advice relevant to Article 4.8.5. and requested the Code Commission to consider this in the next revision of the chapter. In response, Dr Bonbon noted these comments could be considered at the Code Commission’s September 2018 meeting, and asked Australia to provide a proposal supported by relevant documentation.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

255. **New chapter on vaccination (Chapter 4.X.)**

At their February 2015 meeting, both the Code Commission and Scientific Commission proposed to further develop guidance in the Terrestrial Code on vaccination programmes and requested the Director General convene an ad hoc Group to draft a horizontal chapter on vaccination.

The first draft text prepared by the ad hoc Group on vaccination (convened in March 2016) was presented and discussed at the September 2016 meeting and circulated for Member Countries’ comments.

Three rounds of discussions on the draft text have taken place and Member Countries’ comments have been addressed by the Code Commission.

It was also noted that there was wide support for the draft chapter by the Member Countries.

Australia, speaking on behalf of the QUADS countries, stated that the QUADS supports the adoption of the chapter. However, the QUADS noted that with respect to Article 4.X.11, free countries or zones, vaccinating in response to an increased risk of introduction of disease, should only retain their free status when surveillance has been undertaken to demonstrate freedom in vaccinated populations. This may include use of so-called DIVA tests to differentiate infected and vaccinated animals, or through other methods such as monitoring unvaccinated sentinel animals or virological surveillance. Given that vaccination is being undertaken in response to an increased risk of introduction, the ability to continue to demonstrate absence of infection is necessary to have confidence in the free status of the country or zone. The QUADS proposed that the words “provided sufficient surveillance is undertaken to demonstrate freedom” be added to the final paragraph.

\(^{31}\) IETS: International Embryo Technology Society
Benin, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the OIE African Region, suggested that the requirement of Article 4.X.6. be amended to also account for precaution against states such as pregnancy by adding the physiological status of animals in the target population.

Mexico, speaking on behalf of the 30 OIE Member Countries of the Americas, stated that it supported the adoption of this new chapter, however, it had some points to highlight and asked the Code Commission to consider. First, Mexico asked that the OIE ensure consistency on the use of the definitions for vaccination between this new chapter and those used in other OIE documents such as the guidelines for reporting OIE listed disease in the six–monthly reports and their use in the WAHIS guidelines. Secondly, Mexico requested that the term “Veterinary Services” be used throughout the chapter for consistency and to prevent inadvertently implicating “Veterinary Authorities” in having involvement in vaccination programmes for which they have no oversight. Thirdly, under Article 4.X.11, Mexico agreed with comments made by the QUADS and supported the addition of the added text related to “DIVA testing” or other methods of surveillance to show freedom.

The Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, supported the adoption of the chapter, but suggested amending the definition of “population immunity” in Article 4.X.2., as it does not seem to be correct. Indeed, it is not entirely clear what is meant by “effectively immunised”, which could be misunderstood as being the same as “vaccine was indeed administered” i.e. the definition of “vaccination coverage”. However, herd or population immunity in fact means that if a certain percentage of a population is fully protected against infection, an introduction of the pathogenic agent will not result in extensive spread and only in a minor outbreak (i.e. basic reproduction number R0 will be smaller than 1). Furthermore, the infection will not spread to another population, as this does not occur if R0 < 1. Population immunity therefore applies to spread of the agent in the population. In this context, the EU noted that it already provided an alternative text for amending the definition of “population immunity” to the Code Commission before the General Session for consideration at its next meeting. The EU noted that it supports the comments of Africa related to Article 4.X.6.

Zimbabwe on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the OIE African Region, stated that it supported the intervention of the EU on the point regarding population immunity, noting that the correct epidemiological meaning is important, and added that it supports the proposed change to the definition of “population immunity” by the EU.

In response to the comments from the QUADS, Dr Bonbon agreed with the content but noted that the proposed wording could be tautological. He suggested to modify the text by adding “demonstrated by adequate surveillance”. The QUADS and Mexico supported the proposed modification by Dr Bonbon.

In response to comments from Benin, supported by the EU, on Article 4.X.6. the choice of vaccine point 12 (indent) suitability of vaccine for species, Dr Bonbon agreed to include the physiological status of animals in the target population noting that when there is a pregnant animal the vaccine should be adapted to the circumstances.

With regard to the comments on the consistency in the use of definitions for vaccination, Dr Bonbon noted that although he agrees with the comments and commits to verifying this use in the Terrestrial Code, for use outside the Terrestrial Code the Code Commission needs to discuss this with the other Specialist Commissions and OIE Headquarters, especially the OIE WAHIAD.

With respect to the comments on the use of the terms “Veterinary Authority” or “Veterinary Service”, Dr Bonbon noted that there are no inconsistencies found in this draft chapter when it comes to conducting a vaccination programme. He added that the Code Commission will verify each use of these terms in the chapter rather than making a blanket change, and requested that Member Countries also review the chapter carefully and submit comments in writing if needed.
In response to comments on the definition of “population immunity”, Dr Bonbon noted that it is a very technical point and that for the purpose of this chapter, the term does not refer to an absolute concept, but something relative and that is measured. He pointed out that in Article 4.X.7., the point 3 on vaccination coverage describes the minimum vaccination coverage to achieve “sufficient population immunity”, and there are other instances in the chapter where it refers to the “level of population immunity”. He suggested that as the comment is so specific and it is not possible to change it at this time, the Code Commission could re-discuss either to answer the comment in detail or propose a change.

Dr Bonbon presented the new chapter to the Assembly with the modifications of 4.X.11. and 4.X.6 and with a commitment to discuss 4.X.2 on population immunity at the next meeting of the Code Commission.

The amended text was adopted unanimously.

256. The role of Veterinary Services in food safety systems (Chapter 6.1.)

At its November 2015 meeting, the former Animal Production Food Safety Working Group proposed the extensive revision of Chapter 6.1. to improve readability and re-focus the text on the role of Veterinary Services, as opposed to the function of a food safety system.

At its February 2016 meeting, the Code Commission made further amendments to Chapter 6.1. to better distinguish between the role of the Competent Authority and Veterinary Services, noting that in some countries the role and responsibilities of the Veterinary Service along the food chain differ depending on the role of the Competent Authority.

The Code Commission clarified that this chapter is intended to assist Members Countries to understand the role of Veterinary Services in food safety, and that the explanation of Veterinary Services' contribution to food safety systems is already covered in Chapters 3.2 and 3.4.

It was also noted that there was general support from Member Countries for the proposed changes to this chapter.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Austria, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, supported adoption of this chapter but noted that they had submitted comments for consideration by the Code Commission at its next meeting.

New Zealand speaking on behalf of the QUADS countries, noted that this chapter correctly identifies that engagement/collaboration between the Competent Authorities responsible for animal health, food safety and public health is essential, and appears to acknowledge that apportionment of Competent Authority responsibility across these areas is flexible. However, they considered that Article 6.1.4 confuses the earlier message in the chapter as it characterises the Veterinary Services as the Competent Authority where this may not always be the case for certain areas in some Member Countries. They also noted that the OIE Glossary further confuses matters as it makes it clear that the Veterinary Services are not the same as the Competent Authority.

In the interest of clarity, the QUADS suggested that an introductory sentence be inserted at the beginning of Article 6.1.4 to clarify this issue and requested that the whole chapter be reconsidered by the Code Commission at its September meeting.
In response to the comment of the QUADS Dr Bonbon noted that the Code Commission had closely considered all comments submitted during the four rounds of commenting on this chapter and, given the extensive work plan of the Code Commission, proposed that the chapter be adopted with the assurance that the Code Commission would look closely at this issue and other comments submitted at their next meeting. He nevertheless proposed to modify the first sentence of point 1 of Article 6.1.4.

Austria, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, accepted this proposal with the commitment that the Code Commission would consider their comments and this issue at their next meeting.

However, Australia, for the QUADS, rejected the proposal because their concern is not only in point 1; their view is that it is not true to say in Article 6.1.4. point 2b) that Veterinary Services play a key role in ensuring that food-borne risks to public health are minimised.

Dr Bonbon emphasised that this position was a fundamental change to the chapter, which already exists with the contested terms, and the revision of which has been circulated extensively. He highlighted that a quick amendment could make things worse, hence his proposal to adopt the chapter and review this issue at the Code Commission’s next meeting.

Austria did not support any changes to Article 6.1.4. as it considered it accurate as written, i.e. Veterinary Services are often involved in the investigation of food-borne disease outbreaks.

The OIE President noted the concerns that were being raised but suggested that the chapter be proposed for adoption with the assurance that the Code Commission would consider how to address New Zealand’s concerns at their next meeting.

The text as proposed was adopted, with one abstention (New Zealand).

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

At the request of a Member Country, the Code Commission began work on the revision of Chapter 6.7. during its September 2015 meeting.

The *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), which met in January 2016, also identified the need to revise Chapter 6.7. in order to define criteria for selection of animal pathogens for antimicrobial resistance surveillance and develop a list of the most important animal pathogens for the different species, applicable worldwide.

The Code Commission considered Member Countries’ comments and proposals from the *ad hoc* Group on AMR at its September 2016 meeting and circulated the revised text for Member Countries’ comments.

Three rounds of discussions on the revised text have taken place and Member Countries’ comments have been addressed by the Code Commission.

There were conflicting views on the importance of the environment and animal feed in surveillance of antimicrobial resistance and monitoring of the prevalence of resistance. It was noted that monitoring and surveillance will always be according to national priorities, and it was unnecessary to repeat this throughout the text. Furthermore, the *ad hoc* Group on AMR recognised that in addition to human, animal and food factors, the environment is also important for surveillance of AMR and should be identified as such in the chapter. Nevertheless, as some Member Countries have currently limited surveillance measures in place, it was of the opinion that environment should be part of the surveillance of AMR when it is possible and according to national priorities.
At its February 2018 meeting, the Code Commission proposed that Table 1 on sample size estimates for prevalence in a large population be deleted from the chapter on the basis of the *ad hoc* Group on AMR noting that the figures in this table had been generated using a widely used software and requested the OIE Headquarters to provide this information on the OIE website for Member Countries.

It was also noted that the Code Commission would not revisit the chapter until this is made necessary and possible by robust data from experts, and discussions in other fora, such as Codex Alimentarius Commission, are complete.

Russia, speaking on behalf of the 53 European Members of the OIE, noted that they could not support the adoption unless the word “environment” is reinstated in paragraph 1 of Article 6.7.3. given that the environment plays a crucial part in the surveillance and monitoring of AMR. Russia also noted that the Tripartite and the OIE Strategy highlights the importance of the environment in the one health approach.

Canada, speaking on behalf of the QUADS countries, supported adoption of the chapter and commended the Commission and *ad hoc* Group, but had some concerns regarding the inclusion of the immediate or wider environment in point 3d) of Article 6.7.4. and requested further guidance on this point before the chapter is presented for adoption.

Japan supported the adoption noting the improved clarity of the text and taking into account national priorities. However, they asked for an explanation as to why Table 1 had been deleted given that many countries rely on this information.

The Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, joined the 53 Members of Europe in seeking the re-instatement of “environment” and requested that additional written comments be considered by the Code Commission at its next meeting.

Myanmar, speaking on behalf of the 10 members of ASEAN, noted the importance of surveillance and monitoring programmes for AMR and that the members of ASEAN are currently developing national programmes in close cooperation with human and animal agencies. Myanmar requested clarification of the terms “immediate environment” and “wider environment” and suggested the inclusion of definitions for these two terms.

Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the OIE African Region, noted with concern the exclusion of “environment”, indicating that the environment needs constant monitoring and surveillance. Zimbabwe was aligned with the views of the EU and Europe.

The United States of America, speaking on behalf of the 30 OIE Members of the Americas Region, congratulated the Code Commission on the incremental improvements to this chapter. Regarding the addition of a new text in point 3d) of Article 6.7.4. related to sampling the “environment”, the Americas accepted that the “environment” may be a source for sampling, but urged deletion of the text in parentheses “the animal-immediate environment or the wider environment” because this text is vague and has little or no scientific basis to support it. As environmental sampling methodology for AMR is still being developed, it is premature to include such wording at present.

Dr Bonbon noted that sometimes even experts do not always see things the same way. He provided some background to these proposed amendments noting that instead of having the word “environment” included at the beginning associated with the words animal and food, it had been considered better to have it in the sampling sources, as was the case for feed.
Dr Bonbon noted also that the *ad hoc* Group had made the proposal for more detailed guidance to distinguish between the animal’s immediate environment where it lived and other areas of the environment.

Dr Bonbon understood that Europe and Africa would not approve adoption if the word “environment” is deleted but others, the Americas and QUADS, would not approve adoption if detailed reference to the environment is included, and as such the chapter could not be adopted. To reach a compromise he proposed to re-instate “environment” in the first paragraph of Article 6.7.3. and to delete it in the last sentence of the same paragraph, as well as to delete the “animal-immediate environment or wider environment” from Article 6.7.4.

Regarding the rationale for the deletion of Table 1, Dr Bonbon explained that Table 1 had been deleted as the Commission wanted to avoid the inclusion of epidemiological data that can be found in other sources in order to keep standards clear and avoid duplication.

The President of the Assembly asked the Assembly if they would accept to re-instate “environment” in Article 6.7.3. and delete “animal-immediate environment or the wider environment” in point 3d) of Article 6.7.4. or withdraw the proposed chapter and ask the Commission to reconsider these contentious issues.

The United States of America and the EU indicated that they would accept this proposal.

The President of the Assembly reiterated the above proposal. He also noted the consequential changes with the deletion of Table 1, i.e. Table 2 would become Table 1 and Table 3 would become Table 2.

Dr Bonbon presented the amended text to the Assembly.

The text was amended as above and adopted unanimously.

258. **Monitoring of the quantities and usage patterns of antimicrobial agents used in food-producing animals (Articles 6.8.1. and 6.8.1 bis)**

At its meeting in January 2017, the *ad hoc* Group on AMR discussed the definitions used in Chapter 6.8. and proposed an updated definition of ‘therapeutic use’ and new definitions of ‘preventative use’ and ‘growth promotion’, noting that the definitions are not detailed enough to clarify what was expected for reporting in the data collection.

The Code Commission considered the proposal from the *ad hoc* Group on AMR at its February 2017 meeting and circulated the revised text for Member Countries’ comments.

At its meeting in September 2017, the Code Commission considered the structure of Article 6.8.1. and proposed to have separate articles for purpose and definitions for clarity and further amended the definitions in the proposed new article 6.8.1.bis.

Following further discussion at its February 2018 meeting on various comments from Member Countries and the *ad hoc* Group on AMR, the Code Commission made further amendments to the definitions and proposed to forward the revised text for adoption.
France, speaking on behalf of the 53 European Members of the OIE, did not support the use of the term “therapeutic” to subsume “to treat, control or to prevent”, as the terms “therapeutic” and “treatment” are very similar and this would lead to confusion. It therefore suggested deleting the term “therapeutic”, as it is not strictly necessary to use this umbrella term for the purposes of this chapter, i.e. data collection. France proposed some alternative wording to this section of the text and also suggested that Chapter 6.9. would benefit from a thorough revision.

Uruguay, speaking on behalf of the 30 OIE Members of the Americas Region, supported the adoption of the OIE proposed definitions for “therapeutic use”, “nontherapeutic use” and “growth promotion” noting that these definitions are aligned with the global direction animal health authorities are taking and allow for the gradual, but steady and positive implementation of responsible antimicrobial use programmes. The Americas Region appreciated the work of the WHO/FAO/OIE Tripartite to address antimicrobial resistance and encouraged the OIE to continue to contribute, to voice and to guide its perspective in this important activity. The Americas Region continued to support the OIE’s leadership in providing guidance on antimicrobial drug use in livestock, poultry and aquaculture.

Sweden, speaking on behalf of the 28 EU Member States, supported the comments of France.

Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the OIE African Region, supported the position of the region of Europe.

The United States of America noted that to help countries implement the Codes it is essential to have a common understanding of the terms such as ‘therapeutic use’. He also noted that this approach was in line with the G7 common approach to harmonise the terminology. The United States of America would like to find common ground with other countries, but indicated that they strongly opposed the position of Europe and Africa to amend these terms and indicated that if these terms were amended or deleted they would have to vote against adoption of this chapter.

Japan wished to retain the current text as it stands and supported the statement made by the United States of America noting that for collecting data through the OIE monitoring it is difficult and impractical to collect data according to the sub-divided definition. In particular, the confusion can be addressed by clearly indicating that ‘therapeutic’ includes to treat, prevent and control infectious disease.

Australia commented that it was important to find common ground and to show leadership in this area. Australia noted that using the term ‘medical use’, which was proposed in past discussions, might be confused with its use in human health sector but proposed consideration of the term ‘veterinary use’.

Dr Bonbon recalled the importance of this chapter, given that the OIE is now in the fourth round of data collection on antimicrobial usage, and that it is important for Members to see where to put their data and how to collect it. He noted that there was clearly a divergence of opinion regarding the proposed definitions, on the term ‘therapeutic use’. He did not consider simply deleting ‘therapeutic use’ as proposed by Europe and Africa, as putting the three sub-definitions at the same level as the others would not resolve the issue. He noted that the word ‘therapeutic’ does usually mean ‘treatment’, or ‘healing’ and that when metaphylactic and prophylactic were proposed to make a distinction, it was not accepted. In response to the suggestion to replace it by ‘veterinary use’ he noted that there are a lot of uses that would be covered by the term veterinary so this would not provide a good solution. Dr Bonbon noted the title of Chapter 6.9. is “responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials in veterinary medicine”; thus, it was logical and possible to join the two words ‘veterinary medical’. He proposed that instead of ‘therapeutic’ and ‘nontherapeutic’ we use ‘veterinary medical’ and ‘non-veterinary medical’, respectively. He noted that should this be adopted, a resulting change would be made in Article 6.8.3.
Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Austria, speaking on behalf of the 53 European Members of the OIE, agreed with the proposal, which was also accepted by the QUADS and Japan.

The chapter was adopted with amendments as proposed.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo abstained.

259. **Prevention and control of *Salmonella* in commercial pig production systems (Articles 6.13.2., 6.13.3. and 6.13.16.)**

The Code Commission recalled that during the 85th General Session, some Member Countries requested clarification on the purpose of this chapter and on the use of the term ‘commercial’. The Code Commission first noted that this chapter is addressing a public health issue and that these concerns had been addressed by the modification it proposed to the User's guide. It also noted that the definition of ‘commercial pig production systems’ could be misunderstood and amended it to clarify that the term is applicable ‘for the production and sale of pigs or pig meat’.

Thailand commented that in Article 6.13.2, the term ‘commercially traded’ should not be replaced with the term ‘sale’ since the term ‘commercially traded’ is generally used in OIE standards and the term ‘trade’ is clearly defined in the Oxford dictionary.

Dr Bonbon responded that some members do not have the same understanding of the term ‘trade’ and it is often understood to mean ‘international trade’, while ‘commercial’ means that products are sold from one owner to another, i.e. there is a commercial transaction. He also noted that the use of ‘commercial’ in French and Spanish is understood in the broader sense.

Thailand thanked Dr Bonbon for his explanation and agreed to support the proposed chapter for adoption.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised text was adopted unanimously as proposed.

260. **New chapter on introduction to recommendations for veterinary public health (Chapter 6.X.)**

At its meeting in February 2017, based on the review of its previous discussions on chapters in Section 6, Veterinary Public Health, the Code Commission identified a need to address the introduction to the recommendations in this section, and drafted an introductory chapter.

Dr Bonbon noted broad support for the proposed new chapter and presented the new chapter to the Assembly.

Austria, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, suggested amending the fifth paragraph in article 6.X.1. to include ‘assessment’ and ‘communications’, as One Health includes all of the elements of risk analysis.

Dr Bonbon agreed with the proposal.

The new text was adopted unanimously as amended.
261. **Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare (Article 7.1.1.)**

At the 4th Global OIE Conference on Animal Welfare held in Guadalajara Mexico in December 2016, the AWWG discussed the need to update the current definition of ‘animal welfare’ in the *Terrestrial Code*.

At its meeting in February 2017, the Code Commission agreed in principle with the rationale provided by the AWWG and suggested that it would be clearer and more succinct if only the first paragraph of the modified text was used as the definition for animal welfare in the Glossary of the *Terrestrial Code*. It also considered that ‘General considerations’ was a more appropriate sub-heading than ‘Definition’ and separated the article into three paragraphs to improve readability.

The Code Commission reviewed the revised text and made additional editorial amendments to the text based on discussions at the last meeting and in response to comments received at its February 2018 meeting.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Belarus, speaking on behalf of the 53 European Members of the OIE, supported adoption of this revised Article.

Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the OIE African Region, highlighted that Africa believes that welfare already describes a positive condition, hence there may be no need to qualify ‘welfare’ as ‘good welfare’. The Code is referring to a good state of welfare hence Africa suggests that the original definition be maintained.

Zimbabwe further noted that some of the requirements on welfare apply only to domestic animals hence there may be a need to have broader requirements. Finally, he also suggested replacing the word ‘mental’ with ‘behaviour’, since it is difficult to define a ‘mental state’ in animals.

Dr Bonbon repeated what he had explained under the same intervention for the animal welfare definition in the Glossary, in terms that animal welfare could be qualified as good or bad welfare. He also mentioned that if it is problem of translation into French, then we should stick to the English version and the French version will be reviewed. Dr Bonbon asked them to submit their general comments regarding the need for broader requirements for animal welfare.

The revised text was adopted unanimously as proposed.

262. **New article on guiding principles for the use of measures to assess animal welfare (Article 7.1.3bis.)**

At its May-June 2016 meeting, the former AWWG proposed developing a new article on guiding principles for the use of animal-based measures to be included in Chapter 7.1.

At its meeting in September 2016, the Code Commission agreed with the proposal of the AWWG and emphasised that the objective of this article is to support Member Countries in the use of outcome-based measurables in implementing the animal welfare chapters.

Three rounds of discussions on the new article have taken place and at its February 2018 meeting, the Code Commission proposed to place this new article after Article 7.1.3. scientific basis for recommendations, as these are the basis for developing animal welfare recommendations and will apply to other chapters on animal welfare in the *Terrestrial Code*. 
Dr Bonbon presented the new article to the Assembly.

Paraguay, speaking on behalf of the 30 OIE Members of the Americas Region, supported the adoption of this new chapter. However, they asked the Code Commission to consider reinstating the deleted phrase ‘and other relevant bodies’ in the third sentence of Article 7.X.3. point 3), since excluding these entities, universities and research institutions, which often have the ability to collect data, could result in the loss of a valuable source for setting target values.

Kazakhstan, speaking on behalf of the 53 European Members of the OIE, supported adoption of this new Article.

Canada, on behalf of the QUADS countries, supported the adoption of this new Article. Nevertheless, it requested the Code Commission to explain in more detail the distinction between recommendations and standards, which is sometimes difficult to explain to stakeholders. Canada also asked the Code Commission to consider developing definitions for these terms.

Japan proposed to modify the last sentence of the third paragraph of the article to: “Competent Authorities should collect all relevant data that can be used to set target values”, and include the word "necessary", as “all relevant data” is ambiguous and necessary data to be collected by competent authorities differ according to each country’s climatic or geographical conditions.

Ireland, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, supported the adoption of this Article, and asked that the Code Commission take into account additional comments submitted by the EU prior to the Session. It also supported the intervention of Paraguay on behalf of the Americas Region.

Singapore, on behalf of the 32 OIE Member Countries of the Asia, Far East and Oceania Region, supported the adoption of this Article, and supported the comments of Canada on the need for clarification of the distinction between recommendations and standards.

Dr Bonbon agreed that point 3) concerns the way OIE recommendations are developed, while the fact that competent authorities and other relevant bodies should collect data relates to another point intended to guide users. Therefore, he proposed to take the sentence out of the text for the time being, and work on further recommendations for the guidance of users in the next Code Commission meeting.

Dr Bonbon also recalled that the distinction between standards and recommendations has been part of a long debate. The Code Commission indeed develops standards that include recommendations, but he proposed to leave this discussion for the OIE in general, as it is a broader debate with implications beyond the Terrestrial Code.

The revised new Article was adopted unanimously as amended.

263. Welfare of working equids (Article 7.12.7.)

At its meeting in February 2018, the Code Commission considered Member Countries’ proposal to add ‘excessive sweating’ as a new example of behaviour which indicates heat stress, in Article 7.12.7. and agreed with the proposal.
At the 85th General Session, Member Countries expressed concern regarding the term ‘appropriate workloads’ in Article 7.12.12. and the recommendation for maximum working hours for working equids. However, the Code Commission noted that the Region concerned had not yet provided the necessary supporting information, despite OIE Headquarters follow-up, and this article could not be amended.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text of Article 7.12.7 to the Assembly.

Romania, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, supported the adoption and thanked the OIE for its work on the revision of Article 7.12.7 and for taking into account a previous EU comment. The EU agrees with the proposed change and in general supports the adoption of this revised article. The EU would also like to present a specific comment that could be considered either at adoption or during a future revision of the article, once adopted.

Dr Bonbon recalled that the Code Commission does not expect to work on newly adopted chapters every year. However, other pending issues concern this chapter and will be addressed once relevant data have been sent to the Commission.

The revised text was adopted, unanimously.

264. **Animal Welfare and Pig Production Systems (Chapter 7.X.)**

The meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on animal welfare and pig production systems was convened for the first time in March 2016 to work on the development of a new chapter on animal welfare and pig production systems.

At its meeting in September 2016, the Code Commission reviewed the draft chapter proposed and circulated it for Member Countries’ comments.

During two rounds of discussion on the new chapter, the *ad hoc* Group met four times to review Member Countries’ comments and provide additional modifications.

At the Code Commission meeting in February 2018, after extensive discussion and revision of the draft new chapter, the Code Commission agreed to propose the new chapter for adoption at the 86th General Session.

Dr Bonbon presented the new chapter to the Assembly.

Switzerland, speaking on behalf of the 53 European Members of the OIE, supported the adoption of this chapter and thanked the Commission for this important work.

Thailand noted that, at the February meeting, this new chapter was reviewed and new content was inserted, such as the concepts of “play behaviour” and “stereotypies” induced by the environment in Article 7.X.1 on Definitions and in Article 7.X.4 on Criteria or measurables, respectively. From observation, the current text does not clearly explain these new concepts in a practical way. Thailand indicated that is still premature to adopt this new chapter at this point because there is some other content that requires further clarification and interpretation by the OIE experts and the Code Commission. Given the importance of this chapter and the newly inserted concepts, Thailand suggested that the OIE provide more time for Member Countries to conduct their internal consultation with relevant stakeholders. Thailand stated that they cannot support the adoption of this new chapter.
Chad, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the OIE African Region, suggested replacing “mental” with “behaviour” since it is difficult to define a “mental state” in animals. They also suggested amending the text on ‘objective of providing enrichment’ for consistency with Annex 16 Chapter 7.X: the proposed text would read: “The aim of providing enrichment should be to improve the physical and physiological state of the animal”.

The United States of America, speaking on behalf of the 30 OIE Members of the Americas Region, supported the adoption of this new chapter. However, they asked the Code Commission to review Article 7.X.9. on the Provision of feed and water and 7.X.10. on Environmental Enrichment, as in their opinion both Articles include provisions for foraging and feeding behaviour. The Americas Region also requested an opportunity to submit further comments on this issue for consideration by the Code Commission.

Germany, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, supported the adoption of the chapter as presented.

Japan supported the development of the OIE animal welfare standards, including this new Chapter, which are science-based and suitable for different animal production and cultural backgrounds among member countries. Animal welfare is a complex, multifaceted issue with scientific, ethical, economic, legal, religious and cultural dimensions. Distinct from the animal health area, where sanitary measures based on science are the only solution, Japan would like to emphasize that the OIE animal welfare standards and guidance should be flexible enough to allow member countries to implement them according to their specific situations.

Dr Bonbon agreed with the intervention of Japan, as the OIE animal welfare chapters are science-based, while avoiding being prescriptive, so that members have the flexibility to adapt to their situations. The Code does not in general condemn specific production practices except when clearly backed by science and globally accepted, and that is the reason why wording such as ‘should preferably’ or ‘preferred option’ are used. Dr Bonbon further noted that in some cases there are very good studies that have demonstrated causality in terms of welfare impact, and that is why concepts such as ‘play behaviour’ and ‘induced stereotypies’ are included. There are indeed studies that show how to avoid stereotypies that result in bad welfare. Finally, Dr Bonbon recalled that animal welfare is not part of the SPS Agreement, so they have no automatic impact on trade, although there is always the option to include animal welfare aspects in bilateral negotiations if parties agree.

Dr Bonbon, regarding the intervention of the United States of America, clarified that feed could have a role in improving the foraging needs of pigs, and on the other hand non-feed elements could be used to satisfy different behavioural needs, including foraging. That is why reference to foraging is made in two different articles. The Code Commission could review the comment to check any potential redundancy or inconsistency.

Finally, Dr Bonbon agreed to review any written comments submitted during the Session at the next meeting of the Code Commission.

The new chapter was adopted as presented. Thailand voted against adoption.
265. **Infection with bluetongue virus (Chapter 8.3.)**

At the request of a Member Country, the Code Commission began work on the revision of Chapter 8.3. during its September 2016 meeting.

Three rounds of discussions on the revised text have taken place and at its February 2018 meeting, the Code Commission addressed Member Countries’ comments and updated the chapter where appropriate. However, some remaining unresolved issues (i.e. inclusion of recommendations for the declaration of a seasonal vector-free period and timeframes, and durations for the collection of semen and embryos) will have to be discussed further between Specialist Commissions and OIE Headquarters will have to seek expert opinion. The Code Commission considered that this should not preclude the adoption of the revised improved chapter.

Romania, speaking on behalf of the 28 EU Member States, regarding point 5c) of Article 8.3.7., noted that for reasons of consistency the words "country or" should not be deleted from this point. Indeed, the entire article refers to "country or zone seasonally free", so it is unclear why point c) would not also apply to the entire country. Furthermore, for reasons of clarity, a comma should be inserted before "and before shipment".

Dr Bonbon agreed with these proposed amendments.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly. The text was adopted unanimously with amendments as proposed.

266. **Infection with *Brucella abortus*, *B. melitensis* and *B. suis* (Article 8.4.10.)**

At the request of a Member Country seeking clarification as to the scientific rationale for the exclusion of castrated males from testing, the Code Commission corrected an inconsistency in the testing regime during its February 2017 meeting.

At its meeting in February 2018, the Code Commission made a minor editorial amendment to the article.

Niger, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the OIE African Region, noted that in Article 8.4.10. Africa suggested including “suidae” in the list of animals that can be infected with *B. suis* to reflect the title of the chapter.

Dr Bonbon reminded Members to read the past reports of the Code Commission: according to experts, it is currently not possible to certify herd freedom from *Brucella* in pigs and therefore, the provision cannot be included in the *Terrestrial Code*.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly. The revised text was adopted unanimously as proposed.

267. **Infection with rinderpest virus (Article 8.16.2.)**

At the request of a Member Country and the FAO-OIE Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) to review the definition of rinderpest virus-containing material, the Code Commission, in cooperation with the Scientific Commission and the Biological Commission, began work on the revision of Article 8.16.2. during its February 2017 meeting.
Member Countries expressed concern about the use of the term ‘pathological material’ alone in the definition, as it seemed to be confusing in the context of the chapter. In response to this concern, the Code Commission proposed to delete the word ‘pathological’ and keep the words ‘from animals known or suspected to be infected’. The Code Commission noted that the definition of RPV-containing material in Article 8.16.2. only applies to material already stored, and is used for the annual reporting of Member Countries that may still be holding such material in their laboratories (national, academic or other facilities), as required in Article 8.16.9. Annual update on RPV-containing material. The definition of RPV-containing material does not apply to the case definition of Rinderpest in Article 8.16.5.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The revised text was adopted unanimously as proposed.

268. **Infection with lumpy skin disease virus (Articles 11.9.4., 11.9.5., 11.9.6. and 11.9.15.)**

The Code Commission recalled that during the 85th General Session, some Member Countries expressed concerns about inconsistencies and a lack of clarity in some text. In response to these comments, the Code Commission modified Article 11.9.4. and proposed some additional modifications to improve the clarity of the text.

Dr Bonbon noted a number of Member Countries’ comments in support of the revised chapter and presented the revised text to the Assembly.

New Zealand supported adoption but highlighted that the Code Commission had previously agreed to consider the inclusion of lactose as a safe commodity whenever relevant disease chapters are amended, and requested that the Commission consider its inclusion in this chapter at the next revision.

Serbia, speaking on behalf of the 53 European Members of the OIE, supported adoption.

Dr Bonbon, in response to the New Zealand request, proposed that a revision of all the listed disease-specific chapters against this commodity should be undertaken so that it can be included horizontally and will ask the OIE for assistance in this regard.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

269. **Infection with *Burkholderia mallei* (Glanders) (Chapter 12.10.)**

The meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on glanders was convened in November 2013 to undertake the work of revising the chapter on glanders.

Five rounds of discussions on the draft revised chapter have taken place and at its February 2018 meeting, the Code Commission noted that all comments had been addressed and that no outstanding issues remained.

A Member Country requested that the OIE harmonise diagnostic tests, especially given that the specificity of complement fixation testing has been questioned. In response to this request, the Code Commission noted that while recognising the importance of concerted efforts in producing more data to support surveillance recommendations from all stakeholders, this should not preclude the adoption of the revised chapter as the updated *Terrestrial Manual* Chapter 2.5.11 on Glanders was adopted in May 2015.
Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Swaziland, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the OIE African Region, recommended rephrasing the wording in Article 12.10.5. and deleting “the second sample…” to enhance the logical flow.

Argentina, speaking on behalf of the 30 OIE Members of the Americas Region, supported the adoption of this new chapter. However, they had two points they wanted to highlight for consideration. Firstly, for consistency within this chapter, as well as between all the Code chapters on equids, they asked that the term “equid” (rather than equine) be used in the definition of glanders. Secondly, they reminded the OIE that the Region has glanders experts and would like to have them considered by the OIE when selecting experts for glanders-related ad hoc Groups.

Dr Bonbon noted that the wording change in Article 12.10.5 was made on purpose as it concerns one identical test on two occasions, i.e. a single test twice 21 to 30 days apart using the same test to allow for comparison. On the second comment from Argentina, Dr Bonbon noted that they will check the use of the term equid, to see whether this is a translation problem.

The revised text was adopted unanimously as proposed.

270. Revision of the chapter on infection with avian influenza viruses

At the end of his report, Dr Bonbon noted that the Code Commission had requested comments from Member Countries, by 10 May 2018, on the proposals of the ad hoc Group on Avian Influenza, which met in December 2017. The Code Commission would particularly appreciate receiving comments on its suggestion for:

a) proposed definition of poultry;

b) making a clear distinction between HPAI and LPAI in the same chapter by keeping a definition of HPAI while having a separate article or articles on LPAI highlighting the need for LPAI surveillance, the possibility of mutation to HPAI, potential public health consequences, inclusion in six-monthly and annual reports and the application of appropriate sanitary measures in order to manage the risk while avoiding unjustified barriers to trade.

271. The Assembly noted the report of the Code Commission.

FIFTH PLENARY SESSION

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

272. The President informed the Assembly that the International Organisations that had not yet made their presentations were invited to do so during this plenary session.

World Customs Organization (WCO)

273. Mr Theodorus Hesselink, Technical Officer at the World Customs Organization (WCO), briefly introduced the WCO and its mission. He explained that the WCO is a standard-setting organisation for the global customs community and supports its members with advice, technical assistance and capacity-building activities to respond to modern challenges.
274. He underlined that one of the challenges faced by the WCO and its members is cooperation and coordination with relevant government agencies at borders, including Veterinary Services. Several agencies have to work in a cross-border environment governed by national and international regulations.

275. Mr Hesselink highlighted the World Trade Organization’s Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), ratified by 136 WTO members, which contains several obligations intended to cut red tape at borders. He stressed that the TFA does not take away countries’ rights to deal with animal health issues and does not contain obligations that affect Veterinary Services.

276. Mr Hesselink noted that the Least Developed Countries and Developing Countries need assistance in accomplishing the border agency cooperation obligation under the TFA and that international organisations, such as the OIE and WCO, which entered into a cooperation agreement in 2008 and reinforced their collaboration through a revised version in 2015, are working together to support these countries in meeting this obligation.

**World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**

277. Mr Robert Stefanski, Chief of the Agricultural Meteorology Division at the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), presented an overview of WMO's activities related to animal health. He mentioned that WMO has a Commission on Agricultural Meteorology, which held its 17th Session in the Republic of Korea in April 2018. The Commission Session set its agenda for the next four years and established an expert team on Crop, Animal and Pest/Disease Early Warning Systems.

278. Mr Stefanski reviewed various animal disease models from European National Weather Systems and provided an overview of WMO’s Sand and Dust Storm Advisory System, which has three operational nodes: one for North Africa and West Asia, one for East Asia and one for North and Central America.

279. He proposed that future OIE-WMO collaboration could focus on the support of joint activities, participation in each organisation’s technical working groups / expert teams, development of joint projects and updating the Memorandum of Understanding between the OIE and WMO. In addition, he proposed that the OIE and WMO organise a joint meeting in 2018 to further discuss these collaborations.

**HealthforAnimals**

280. Mr Alexander Rinkus, Communications Director of HealthforAnimals, reminded the Assembly that HealthforAnimals is an international association representing over two hundred companies that manufacture veterinary vaccines, pharmaceuticals and other animal health products. He underlined that HealthforAnimals, which has partnerships with international organisations, charities, research, veterinary and food/feed groups and a Memorandum of Understanding with the OIE since 2002, has for many years been taking responsible action to fight antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

281. Mr Rinkus outlined the activities of the association, which include responsible use campaigns, voluntary product labelling, cross-sectoral coordination with the food chain, and farmer/veterinarian educational and media campaigns about prevention and vaccination. He explained that, in 2017, the association had launched the “Global Animal Health AMR Commitments”, setting out five principles:

- Protection of animal health and welfare;
- Judicious and responsible use of antibiotics;
- Promotion of disease prevention and increased access to products and expertise;
- Investment in the development of products for prevention and treatment;
- Increase in knowledge, transparency and communications.
He emphasised that these principles are supported by all large global animal health companies and hundreds of mid-sized companies.

Dr Paula Cáceres, Head of the Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, stated that this presentation had been prepared based on the various notifications that countries had submitted to the OIE via the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) up to and including 6 May 2018. She indicated that the presentation would begin with the global situation regarding four terrestrial OIE-listed diseases and infections of major interest and currently subject to global control or eradication efforts, namely bovine tuberculosis, infection with foot and mouth disease virus, infection with peste des petits ruminants virus and infection with rabies virus. She added that the presentation would be followed by a summary of the global situation relating to four other diseases and infections of major interest, namely infection with influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity in birds, African swine fever, lumpy skin disease and Tilapia lake virus disease, an emerging disease in aquatic animals. She indicated that the presentation would conclude with an update on the WAHIS renovation process.

Dr Paula Cáceres provided statistics on the reports submitted to the OIE as of 6 May 2018. She declared that Member Countries with reports still outstanding for 2017 and previous years were encouraged to submit them as soon as possible so that their animal health information could be updated in WAHIS and shared with the global community.

To begin, Dr Cáceres explained that she would present the situation relating to four diseases for which global control and eradication programmes had been implemented: infection with foot and mouth disease (FMD) virus, infection with peste des petits ruminants (PPR) virus, infection with rabies virus and bovine tuberculosis.

She provided details about the Global Strategies, the OIE procedure for the official recognition of disease status and OIE endorsement of official control programmes.

She indicated that in this section she would describe the global situation of the four diseases and would provide an overview of implementation of the relevant prevention and control measures in countries and territories since the year of the endorsement of the Global Strategy for each disease, using WAHIS data.

Dr Cáceres presented the situation relating to FMD as one of the three most frequently notified OIE-listed diseases during the period 2017 and early 2018. She showed the distribution of the disease by serotypes and highlighted the countries that had reported it by means of immediate notifications during the period.
Later, she presented the global trend of the disease since 2012, the year of endorsement of the Global Strategy. She commented that the percentage of reporting countries and territories notifying the disease had been relatively stable since 2012 as well as the ratio of Members officially recognised by the OIE as being free from FMD.

She emphasised that some countries had expanded the area of their FMD free zones between 2012 and 2017 and that a spatial analysis had showed that the total area corresponding to free zones within Member Countries had increased by 133%. She highlighted that seven countries that were infected or had a part of their territory officially recognised as free from FMD in 2012 had at that moment an official FMD free status for the entire territory in 2018.

She commented that consistently over the period of analysis, on average for each semester, 36% of affected countries and territories had not been able to provide information on circulating serotypes, mainly in Africa, but also some in Asia and the Middle East.

Moreover, she showed the percentage of the affected countries and territories implementing the relevant control measures between 2012 and 2017. She described that during this period some countries reporting FMD outbreaks had an endorsed official control programme. She added that the percentage of affected countries and territories reporting all of the relevant FMD control measures had remained stable and relatively low. She indicated that the highest percentage of affected countries had applied some but not all of the relevant measures. She emphasised that the measures most frequently applied had been surveillance, movement control and official vaccination, but few of these countries had applied stamping out or selective killing and disposal.

She added that the results of the study had showed a high level of vigilance in countries and territories reporting FMD absence.

To conclude, Dr Cáceres indicated that despite the FMD official situation had slightly improved, more efforts should be made in some regions to improve the diagnostic capabilities of countries to identify the disease’ serotypes, as this information was essential to precisely understand the circulation of all strains of the disease and improve preparedness at country and global level.

In addition, she encouraged the countries and territories to make use of the Global FMD Control Strategy and the expertise available in the OIE network of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres to design and implement well-structured control efforts. She concluded that this would allow the subsequent reporting of more accurate disease information through WAHIS for the continued monitoring of global progress of the control efforts.

286. **Infection with peste des petits ruminants virus**

Dr Cáceres carried on the presentation with the situation of PPR for 2017 and early 2018. She showed the recent distribution of the disease and highlighted the countries that had reported its presence by means of immediate notifications during the period.

Later, she presented the evolution of PPR occurrence and status among the reporting countries and territories since 2015, the year of the endorsement of the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR. She commented that the percentage of PPR-affected countries had slightly increased and that the number of countries with officially recognised PPR free status and reporting the disease absent had not changed significantly over the years.
Moreover, she gave the percentage of the affected countries and territories reporting the implementation of relevant control measures between 2015 and 2017. She indicated that the number of countries and territories implementing all of the relevant control measures had decreased during the studied period. She added that the majority of affected countries had applied some of the relevant control measures, and few countries only had not reported any of the relevant control measures over the years. She stressed that the measures most commonly applied were the same than for FMD. She commented the decrease in the percentage of affected countries implementing official vaccination from 2015 to 2017.

She added that the results of the study had showed a high and stable level of vigilance in countries and territories reporting PPR absence.

To conclude the PPR section, Dr Cáceres emphasised that it could not be said that the global situation had shown a significant improvement since the endorsement of the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR in 2015. She pointed out that despite that PPR had spread to some areas outside its traditional range over the last few years, including Eastern Europe and Asia, few of the PPR-affected countries had reported having implemented all of the relevant control measures. She suggested that there was room for enhanced prevention and control measures, not only for affected countries but also for countries in PPR-free areas. She concluded indicating that greater commitment on the part of countries and territories was required if we were to achieve global eradication by 2030.

287. **Infection with rabies virus in dogs**

In the following section, Dr Cáceres reminded the importance of dog-mediated rabies as zoonosis and presented the situation of the infection with rabies virus in relation to the global strategy for the elimination of dog-mediated human rabies by 2030.

She showed the distribution of the disease for 2017 and early 2018, indicating the countries that had reported the presence of rabies by means of immediate notifications and those that had highlighted the absence of the disease through the submission of self-declarations of freedom from rabies.

She detailed that the big majority of the affected countries and territories had reported the disease present at least in dogs and that mass dog vaccination was considered the most cost-effective approach to eliminating human rabies exposures.

Moreover, she described the percentage of the affected countries and territories reporting the implementation of relevant control measures in 2017.

She explained that official vaccination of dogs had been implemented in more than 80% of countries and territories with the disease present in dogs, and the potential bias associated to that measure. She added that official dog vaccination had only been implemented in about 35% of the countries and territories where rabies was present in non-canine species only; that percentage included several South American countries and raised concerns in terms of the preparedness for possible transmission to dogs from other species. She encouraged these countries and territories to strengthen their strategies, including national policies for rabies control and prevention.

She concluded the section encouraging all the countries to provide information on the presence or absence of the disease and species affected in relation with the Global Strategy. Moreover, she indicated that there was a gap in the implementation of official vaccination for rabies, especially in the countries where the disease was reported in non-canine species only, which might lead to an increase in the risk to public health.
288. *Infection with Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex*

Dr Cáceres carried on the presentation reminding the importance on public health of the infection with the *Mycobacterium bovis* complex, in relation with the Roadmap for Zoonotic Tuberculosis, “to end the global tuberculosis epidemic by 2030”. She informed that the experts from the OIE Reference Laboratories for bovine tuberculosis were evaluating whether two pathogens (*M. caprae* and *M. tuberculosis*), that were at that moment non OIE-listed diseases, met the listing criteria of Chapter 1.3.

Afterwards, she showed the recent distribution of bovine tuberculosis caused by *M. bovis* in 2017 and early 2018, indicating the countries that had reported the presence of the disease by means of immediate notifications. She in reference to the archive of self-declarations since 2000 that is available on the OIE website, she said that no country had submitted to the OIE a self-declaration of freedom from infection with *M. bovis* since at least 2000.

Moreover, she described the percentage of the affected countries and territories reporting the implementation of relevant control measures in 2017. She commented that, among the countries where the disease was present, the big majority had reported having implemented some of the relevant measures. She added that almost 90% of the countries where the disease had been absent had implemented the surveillance and/or precautions at the borders.

She concluded the section indicating that despite the results of the analysis had indicated that approximately 90% of the countries had reported at least some of the relevant measures in place to prevent or control the disease, bovine tuberculosis remained present in the majority of countries.

289. **General Discussion**

Dr Cáceres concluded the horizontal chapter by saying that the disease occurrence data and the information on prevention and control measures reported through WAHIS could be used to analyse and understand the current global disease situation and monitor the progress achieved with the ongoing global control and eradication efforts.

She encouraged Member Countries to make strategic use of OIE standards and OIE mechanisms as the official disease status recognition and endorsement of official control programmes, self-declarations of disease freedom, and OIE PVS tool.

290. **Global situation regarding four diseases and infections of major interest**

Dr Cáceres stated that she would continue her presentation with an in-depth epidemiological analysis regarding other four diseases and infections of major interest.

291. *Infection with influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity in birds*

She presented the situation relating to infection with influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity (HPAI) in birds, highlighting that the disease remained one of major global concern due to the high economic impact, the number of affected countries and the increasing number of subtypes.

She showed the distribution of HPAI in 2017 and early 2018, differentiating between domestic poultry and other categories of birds and indicating the countries that had reported the presence of the disease by means of immediate notifications. She highlighted that the percentage of affected countries and territories during this period had been the highest since the 2006 crisis. She presented the subtypes reported during the period, indicating that the subtype most frequently reported had been H5N8.
She then presented the trend of the disease since 2005, explaining the large variations observed in the trend over the past 12 years. She indicated that the outbreaks reported through WAHIS for the period 2005-2018 pertained to two different major global panzootic waves, with the first panzootic wave ending in 2012, and the second wave starting in 2013 and still ongoing. She explained that this part of the analysis had sought to evaluate the reactivity of countries to control disease events, the factors impacting on this reactivity and temporal and spatial differences in countries’ reactivity.

She explained that the apparent mortality rate (Ap.MR) was defined as the number of dead animals divided by the number of susceptible animals at outbreak level before the implementation of stamping out. She specified that this rate had been used as proxy of countries’ reactivity for the early control of the disease.

She carried on the presentation with the distribution of the Ap.MR for all the countries during the studied period, detailing the factors that had played a role in the reactivity of the countries.

Firstly, she commented that the Ap.MR for backyard poultry had been significantly higher than for farms, indicating that the overall reactivity of countries for farms had been better than for backyard poultry.

Secondly, she mentioned that the reactivity in bigger farms had been better than in smaller farms.

Thirdly, she stressed that the countries had been more reactive during the second panzootic wave in comparison with the first one.

Finally, she identified the areas that had showed significant improvements between the two panzootic waves: Western Europe, Eastern Africa and in several countries in Asia and Oceania. She commented that this improvement in reactivity could be considered as a direct consequence of learning achieved from prior experience, and reflected the diverse preparedness and reactivity of Veterinary Services.

Dr Cáceres concluded the section of HPAI emphasizing that the world was experiencing a new panzootic of HPAI with continuously changing virus behaviour and that in this context, it was important to collect as much accurate, real-time information as possible.

She added that, despite the apparent deterioration of the epidemiological situation of the disease, early detection and rapid control had improved, meaning that the importance of reactivity to tackle the disease was recognised by Member Countries.

She concluded by emphasizing that the new WAHIS+ system would help Member Countries with early and timely reporting of information.

292. **African swine fever**

Dr Cáceres continued her presentation with analysis on the African swine fever (ASF) situation. After highlighting the historical importance of the disease, she showed the distribution of ASF in 2017 and early 2018, indicating the countries that had reported the presence of the disease by means of immediate notifications.

She then presented the trend of the disease from 2005, stressing that the percentage of affected countries had significantly increased, which reflected the recent spread of ASF in Europe as well as the reporting of ASF in previously unaffected countries of West Africa during the past 10 years.

Dr Cáceres continued the presentation with the risk assessment of ASF spread in order to identify the main pathways of introduction, regions of origin and destinations at high risk of disease introduction.
She first described the categorization of countries based on ASF epidemiological scenarios during the period in: endemic, sporadic and first occurrence. She commented that, while in the African continent ASF had been endemically present, in Europe the disease had presented a re-emergent nature. She explained that two different epidemiological cycles of ASF had been described in Africa based on the host, the transmission routes, the role of ticks and the involvement of genotypes.

For each of the selected risk-origin scenarios, she presented the percentage of ASF-affected countries that had provided quantitative information about ASF in domestic and wild pigs, showing the regional differences.

She explained that the methodology used in the analysis was a qualitative risk assessment based on the use of proxies and categorisation of the risk for each of the pathways, origins and destinations of the disease.

She indicated that two groups of pathways had been identified as the highest risk for introduction of ASF virus to free-disease regions. She specified that the first group included two pathways associated with wild pigs from the European ASF-affected countries, such as the movement of wild pigs and the potential illegal importation of wild pigs to free areas for hunting purposes. She emphasised that these pathways cannot be considered without taking into account the role of humans and their actions (i.e. hunting), since they had an important impact on the spread of the disease through these pathways.

Moreover, she cited the other pathways that could present a high risk were: food waste from international ships and the illegal introduction of pig products infected with ASF. She recalled that both these pathways had historically been and were the most important pathways for the spread of ASF. She also underlined that the risk associated to these two pathways came from the three affected regions and affected a higher number of regions than the previous group.

On the other hand, she indicated that the two other pathways studied posed a lower risk, such as the illegal importation of domestic pigs and, finally, the legal importation of domestic pigs and pig products, thanks to the recommendations in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code on importation and the level of international awareness and concern about the disease.

She concluded that the highest risk of spread was mainly concentrated in ASF-free countries in Europe and Africa. She added that the risk of ASF virus spreading to other continents, such as the Americas and Oceania was low, whereas certain regions of Asia presented a moderate risk for certain pathways.

She stated that the global situation of the disease had got worse during the last decade and that the assessment had only evaluated the relative risk of release of ASF virus without fully considering the risk of exposure of susceptible swine populations to the virus, which would also be affected by regulatory and other factors, nor the subsequent consequences that ASF could have in the region.

She indicated that the risks associated with some pathways could be effectively managed by appropriate control measures to minimise exposure to these potential viral introductions in destination countries. She recalled that since no vaccine existed for ASF and none was expected in the near future, risk management should focus on prevention of the disease through increasing biosecurity measures at farm level and in hunting practices.

She pointed out that prevention policy development and implementation should include all stakeholders associated with the pathways of transmission. She specified that, in addition to Veterinary Services, border and customs agencies played an important role in the detection of illegal introductions and should be included in the preparedness programmes.
She added that in the European scenario, adequate coordination with wildlife agencies and hunters associations was essential for the development of surveillance and control programmes and, in ASF-free African countries, quick detection of the disease and interception of infected animals and products were essential to avoid further spread.

Dr Cáceres ended the section by stressing that in Europe, the Standing Group of Experts on ASF, established in 2014 under GF-TADs, had contributed to improving regional dialogue through technical guidance, country expert missions and capacity-building activities. She invited the Assembly to replicate this in other regions and use it as a model for other diseases.

293. Lumpy skin disease

Dr Cáceres then presented the situation on lumpy skin disease (LSD). She started showing the global trend of the disease since 2005 until 2017, which revealed a deterioration of the reported global situation during the overall period of analysis. She reminded that, as it had been presented in the last General Session, the virus had made a jump of about 30 degrees (more than 3000 kilometres) northwards in the last 10 years, substantially extending its distribution range, partially due to the change in environmental conditions.

She presented the recent reported distribution of the disease in 2017 and early 2018 indicating the countries that had reported the presence of the disease by means of immediate notifications.

She carried on the presentation describing the prevention and control strategies implemented in countries and territories over the past 13 years, according to their epidemiological situation. She explained that, for the analysis, the year 2013 had been considered the critical year in the change of LSD distribution, as the disease spread to latitudes where it had never previously been recorded.

She explained that in the traditionally affected areas, in Africa and a part of the Middle East, no significant improving or deteriorating trend for the percentage of affected countries had been observed.

She highlighted that the countries and territories in the traditionally affected areas reporting the disease absent had presented a low level of surveillance and preventive measures. She recommended to those countries at-risk to implement vaccination programs.

She added that in those same affected areas, large-scale vaccination combined with strict biosecurity measures had proven to be effective in controlling the disease. She commented that, however, 35% of countries and territories had not reported any control strategy and that the majority of the remaining countries had not applied all the recommended measures, which showed a substantial deficiency in the regional approach to LSD control. She underlined that this might partly explain why no improvement in the disease situation had been observed in the past 13 years in that area of the world.

She commented that, based on different studies, the quality of vaccines in the region had been variable and therefore, depending on vaccines used, the efficiency of control strategies relying solely on vaccination in endemic areas could be questioned.

Carrying on the presentation, Dr Cáceres presented the situation in the areas recently affected by LSD from 2013, highlighting the initial rapid progression of the disease in these areas, followed by the decrease on the number of affected countries and territories after the vaccination coordinated.

She mentioned that among the countries and territories reporting the disease absent, about 80% on average for each semester had reported a preventive strategy for disease introduction or re-introduction.
She added that all affected countries had implemented control strategies for LSD from 2013 to 2017, nevertheless, not all countries had implemented all the pillars of the recommended control strategy for the disease. She specified that several countries in the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Central Asia had not implemented vaccination in response to the outbreaks in their control programmes in each semester.

She emphasized that to deal effectively with the recent spread of the disease in Europe, homologous vaccines with demonstrated efficacy against LSD had been used, where in most cases the occurrence of new LSD outbreaks had stopped within one month following proper completion of the vaccination campaign.

She highlighted that the existence of the coordination of the GF-TADs for Europe, supported by the European Commission, with the working groups had resulted in excellent coordination of strategies between the countries. She especially stressed the success of vaccination in Balkan countries, following the discussions and expertise provided during these GF-TADs meetings.

Finally, she presented the situation in the areas free from the disease, showing that more and more LSD-free countries had been implementing preventive strategies over time, in particular in Asia, near affected areas. She added that very few countries in LSD-free areas had implemented preventive vaccination to mitigate the impact of virus entry.

Dr Cáceres concluded the section on LSD indicating that while the disease spread very quickly in Central and Southern Asia, Europe and the Middle East from 2014 to 2016, the years 2017 and 2018 had marked a halt in the spread of LSD towards new areas due to the effectiveness of the applied control strategies. She continued mentioning that that contrasted with the countries and territories located in the traditional LSD range, where the disease continued to be steadily present, despite the fact that control strategies had been implemented for more than 10 years.

She reminded that OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres could provide scientific and technical assistance to Member Countries to assist with the design and implementation of effective surveillance and control programmes.

She indicated that the OIE encouraged its Members in at-risk areas to initiate vaccination campaigns ahead of virus entry, using vaccines that complied with OIE standards. In addition, she added that the chapters of the Terrestrial Manual and Terrestrial Animal Health Code on LSD had been updated in 2016 and 2017.

294. **Tilapia lake virus disease, an emerging disease in aquatic animals**

Dr Cáceres concluded the presentation on the sanitary situation with the infection with tilapia lake virus (TiLV), an emerging disease in aquatic animals. She indicated that, from 2011, several countries and territories in different regions of the world had experienced substantial mortality rates in farmed tilapia and the wild population. She explained that the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (AAC) had determined that the disease met the definition of an emerging disease.

She would then indicate the countries that had sent immediate notifications for this disease in 2017 and 2018.

She emphasized that this disease represented an important risk for the fast-growing worldwide tilapia production sector. The annual global production was estimated to be about 6 000 000 tonnes in more than 100 countries.

She then showed the evolution of the global production of tilapia from 2000 to 2015 based on FAO data and the perspective of the increase in aquaculture production by 2025.
She explained that the AAC had agreed that the criteria were not met because of insufficient information concerning analytical and diagnostic specificity and sensitivity of the assay. She indicated that the AAC encouraged the countries to submit further information on the international distribution and impact of the disease, while further work to develop and validate diagnostic methodologies was being undertaken. She informed that an ad hoc Group on TiLV was working remotely to assess TiLV diagnostics and their validation, and this work would be reported back to the next meeting of the AAC, in September 2018.

She mentioned that the lack of thorough investigation of all mortality incidents could mean that the geographical distribution of TiLV might be wider than that determined so far based on the existing notifications to the OIE.

Dr Cáceres concluded the section on TiLV reiterating that the disease continued to be reported in new countries because of the capacity of the virus for long distance spread, and that posed a significant threat. She emphasized that it was essential to understand the geographical distribution of TiLV for efforts to prevent and control its possible spread. She indicated that OIE encouraged Members to investigate mortality and morbidity events in tilapiines and submit viral isolates to the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) gene bank.

Finally, Dr Cáceres thanked the Members highlighting that the number of six-monthly reports submitted to the OIE for aquatic animal diseases had increased in the past five years. She reminded that reporting on aquatic animal diseases was an obligation for all Members, and included diseases in both aquaculture and wild harvest fisheries. She specified that the OIE helped its Members to fulfil their obligations on notification of aquatic animal diseases by encouraging the nomination of National Focal Points for Aquatic Animals, and giving them access to WAHIS and providing regular dedicated training, including through the WAHIS e-learning platform available in the three OIE official languages.

295. **Update on the WAHIS renovation project (WAHIS+)***

Dr Cáceres concluded her presentation with the WAHIS renovation project stating that the aim of the new platform was to enhance transparency of animal health in an innovative and effective way for the benefit of the Members.

She recalled that the development, launch and sustainability of the WAHIS+ platform as well as its continuous use by national Veterinary Services was at the core of the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan 2016-2020, and would continue to be a predominant priority for the OIE in order to respect and fulfil its mandate to the global community.

Afterwards, she presented the four stages of the WAHIS+ project.

She indicated that WAHIS+ would be developed using a module approach, starting with the development of existing core modules, and progressively integrating new ones. In addition, she mentioned the main new functionalities of the system.

She informed the Assembly about the international selection process of the information technology (IT) company Sopra Steria for the development and construction of WAHIS+. She indicated that WAHIS+ development had started in April 2018 with the general conception.

She communicated that the project had established a solid governance mechanism that she described. She added that the WAHIS+ Strategic Advisory Committee, that met once per year, had been chaired by the Director General of the OIE and gathered in its first meeting WAHIS+ project team, an OIE Delegate from each of the five OIE Regions, representatives
of international organisations, OIE Collaborating Centres, foundations and cooperation partners, as well as academia. She explained that the Strategic Advisory Committee provided medium and long-term advice to guide the appropriate evolution of WAHIS+ project.

Afterwards, she described the composition of the WAHIS+ Key Users Committee. She explained that the role of that Committee was to ensure that end-user feedback was addressed for each module of WAHIS+.

To conclude with this section, she presented the communication strategy for WAHIS+. She indicated that, to contribute to the strategy, the OIE had organised a workshop in February 2018, with the representatives of Member Countries and other partners.

296. Dr Caceres ended her presentation by thanking her team for preparing the report, for their daily commitment to the notification process and for their great motivation in developing the new WAHIS. She also commended colleagues from the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations for their ongoing support for the notification process. She made special mention of the work of Focal Points and Delegates in ensuring continued improvement in the information available through WAHIS.

297. Before opening the discussion, Dr Botlhle Michael Modisane, the President of the Assembly, summarised the different disease concerns raised and the improvements noted. He urged Members to do more in the area of disease surveillance with a special mention of Tilapia Lake virus disease. He thanked Dr Caceres and invited the Delegates to make comments.

298. Australia expressed its concerns regarding over-interpretation of the global animal health situation analysis results. The remarks referred in particular to the highly pathogenic avian influenza analysis and to the conclusion that “it represents the success of the global strategy and efforts implemented by Member Countries during the last 10 years”. The country highlighted that this conclusion is based on the apparent mortality rate analysis, but many possible confounding factors are not acknowledged, such as the differences in the predominant virus strain in the two time periods compared, or changes to reporting behaviour. Australia encouraged the OIE to continue to analyse the data collected in WAHIS but suggested this analysis may highlight areas for further investigation rather than result in direct conclusions.

299. Senegal reported that FMD was endemic in the country with three serotypes in circulation (A, O and SAT2). Senegal informed the Assembly that targeted vaccination was practised on exotic animals and crossbreeds with exotic species on dairy farms. Senegal also indicated that bovine tuberculosis caused by Mycobacterium bovis, which was also endemic in the country, was one of the six priority zoonoses within the One Health framework. Senegal stressed the importance of surveys to establish its prevalence and reinforce intersectoral collaboration to control the disease. In response to the information presented on highly pathogenic avian influenza, Senegal pointed out that the disease was still a global threat and recalled the need to boost research to improve control. Finally, Senegal requested information on the animal health situation relating to diseases of bees.

300. Zimbabwe expressed concern that it appears that Members should report control measures for diseases that are absent and asked for clarification. Regarding the positive conclusions based on the analysis of avian influenza, and in support of Australia’s intervention, Zimbabwe mentioned that optimism should be cautious in view of the role of migratory birds.

301. Benin stated that it was one of the countries that had reported FMD with no details of the serotypes involved. Benin added that the disease was endemic and that the serotypes historically present were certainly serotypes A and O. Benin went on to stress that it was necessary to report the serotypes identified for outbreaks of the disease in each of the reports sent to the OIE, which was not easy for developing countries because of the costs and difficulties in rapidly sending samples for serotyping. Benin rounded off its
contribution by asking for clarification concerning the role of imports of pigs in the spread of African swine fever and the difference between stamping out, selective culling and culling.

302. Germany, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the EU, welcomed the plans to modernize WAHIS. Germany thanked and offered support to the OIE for its role in promoting transparency of the worldwide animal health situation, the importance of sharing complete epidemiological data and expressed their commitment to improving their reporting to the OIE. They were looking forward to the new features of WAHIS+. In relation to African Swine Fever (ASF), Germany drew the attention of the Assembly to the expert recommendations produced by GF-TADs Standing Group of Experts on ASF and said it was important to take into consideration the recommendations produced in the past 10 GF-TADs experts meetings in Europe when analysing ASF data for the European Region. Germany highlighted that the natural spread of ASF by wild boar in Europe was a very slow process (as reported by EFSA), as these animals are in fact sedentary and not migratory. Germany stated that the spread of ASF lay not only in humans interfering with wild boar natural behaviour, but also with biosecurity breaches, either at farm level or during hunting. Therefore, the human factor needs to be addressed via awareness campaigns and cross border cooperation on movements of pigs and their products (both addressed in detail by the latest two meetings of the GF-TADs Standing Group of Experts on ASF which were organised by the OIE in Chisinau and Kiev).

303. The Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the 28 Member States of the European Union, and following the intervention by Germany, in relation to lumpy skin disease (LSD), reiterated the importance of international cooperation and coordination for the quick and effective control of this disease. The Netherlands stated that the Standing Group of Experts on LSD for South East Europe (under GF-TADs) had proven to be a valuable tool for this purpose in the region. The Netherlands re-emphasised the conclusions of EFSA work between 2016 and 2018 that fully supported mass vaccination of cattle as the most effective control measure against LSD. For that, the vaccination coverage should be high (at least 95% of holdings vaccinated), over extended areas, with vaccines of proven effectiveness, like the live homologous ones, currently used in South East Europe. The Netherlands added that these conclusions were supported by the epidemiological evolution of LSD in the region, and said that the relevant control policy generated as a result, could serve as an example for the future. To conclude and as a general comment, The Netherlands asked the Assembly to note that in the European Union, reinforced surveillance was carried out for several diseases, including ASF as highlighted by Dr Cáceres. This allows detailed and timely notifications to the OIE with good quality data made publicly available in WAHIS, EMPRES, GF-TADs or even EFSA scientific opinions. The Netherlands stated that this official data, coming from the veterinary authorities, should be the basis for any analysis carried out by the OIE. The Netherlands stated that for each outbreak of ASF, LSD or HPAI, tailored regionalisation measures had been put in place by the EU in line with the OIE standards. The Netherlands then suggested that the inclusion of national regionalisation measures into the analysis on the annual animal health situation would provide added value for the OIE. The Netherlands expressed their confidence that WAHIS+ would help to minimise the likelihood of having unjustified trade barriers. Finally, The Netherlands highlighted the importance of OIE principles of zoning and regionalisation being applied by all trading partners and suggested that WAHIS+ should include a mechanism to enhance the visibility of national regionalisation measures of OIE Members (i.e. a section where reporting countries could upload their regionalisation measures).
304. Côte d'Ivoire underlined the importance of presenting the global animal health situation for highly pathogenic avian influenza in both poultry and wild birds. Côte d'Ivoire recalled that there were regional disparities between transmission modes for African swine fever and asked the OIE to promote the introduction of control and eradication programmes for this disease in the sub-regions, especially in Africa, which was widely affected by the disease. Côte d'Ivoire concluded its intervention by pointing out that Africa was a significant consumer, as well as a major importer, of tilapia, and asked the OIE to encourage exporting countries to report data from important production centres.

305. Dr Cáceres thanked the Member Countries for their comments.

306. In response to the comments made by Senegal, Dr Cáceres pointed out that the six bee diseases included in the OIE List were under-reported. She stated that a presentation on the bee health situation was planned for the next General Session, and that the corresponding information would be available meanwhile on the WAHIS online interface. She mentioned that not all countries were implementing surveillance measures for bee diseases, and that consequently the OIE had incomplete data on the health situation.

307. Dr Cáceres highlighted that each year, considering the importance of HPAI, the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department (WAHIAD) presents an analysis of the disease using different proxies that carry certain risks of bias. She recognised that HPAI is a disease with a complex epidemiology and that some possibly confounding factors were not considered in the analysis. However, Dr Cáceres remarked that the results presented were based on WAHIS data, and that looking at that data, an improvement in Member Countries’ reactivity was evident. She said that the concerns of Australia will be taken into consideration in the future and the department will avoid over-interpretation, and acknowledge reporting and other bias regarding the information in WAHIS.

308. In response to the comments from Zimbabwe, Dr Cáceres pointed out that Members are always asked to provide the disease control measures applied for present and absent diseases, and especially in the six-monthly reports since there was usually good data provided in the immediate notifications and follow-up reports. Regarding the avian influenza analysis, she added that many factors, including the number of subtypes present in the second panzootic wave for HPAI, meant understanding the disease epidemiology is complex.

309. In response to the comments of Benin, Dr Cáceres mentioned the disparities observed in the quality of the information submitted by certain Member Countries. In the case of ASF, she stressed the fact that the information provided by certain African sub-regions was patchy or incomplete, which limited the options for analysis. She therefore invited these Member Countries to submit better quality information so that more in-depth and relevant analyses could be performed. On the subject of stamping-out, selective culling and disposal, Dr Cáceres stated that these measures were applied depending on the objectives set by the Veterinary Services and the endemic or sporadic nature of the disease.

310. Dr Cáceres welcomed Germany’s comments on behalf of the EU countries, reconfirming what she had already said in her presentation – that the OIE fully supported all the work of GF-TADs Europe – and she called on the other regions to follow its example. With regard to the impact of wild boars on the spread of ASF in Europe, she reiterated that, aside from the waves of wild boar movements, there was a human factor to consider. Therefore, in order to curb the spread of the disease, biosecurity measures at the farm level and in hunting, as well as coordination between different institutions and organisations, needed to be stepped up. She reaffirmed the OIE’s support for education and biosafety campaigns at all levels.
311. In response to the comments from The Netherlands, Dr Cáceres acknowledged the importance of the GF-TADs Europe Standing Group of Experts on Lumpy Skin Disease and its success in halting the spread of the disease over the past two years. She recognised that regional coordination was vital to control the disease and stop it from spreading. She concluded by saying that the regionalisation concept would be considered when developing WAHIS+.

312. In response to the intervention of Côte d'Ivoire, Dr Cáceres stated that the OIE encouraged the introduction of programmes and coordination at the regional level to control and eradicate the ASF. As for the disease caused by Tilapia lake virus, she pointed out that if there was local or regional production and it was possible to monitor the status of the disease, it was vital to inform the OIE in order to determine the global animal health situation.

313. In reply to the comments made by Senegal, Dr Matthew Stone, Deputy Director General of the OIE, added that bee diseases were an important issue for the OIE, but that the national Veterinary Services were not always in charge of bee health. He stated that during General Sessions each year, the OIE presented the health situation for diseases of interest for the majority of countries. He underlined that the OIE was collaborating with the International Federation of Beekeepers’ Associations (APIMONDIA), and that during the APIMONDIA Congress organised every 2 years, there was a 1-day OIE Symposium with the aim of presenting the OIE activities regarding bee health including relevant information on bee diseases. He noted that the last International Apicultural Congress had taken place in September/October 2017 in Turkey and that the OIE would once again attend the forthcoming Congress to be held in Canada in September 2019. He pointed out that several African countries were major honey producers and that as a result apiculture was of particular interest for the region. As a result, APIMONDIA would also hold a symposium on “the role of bees in food production”, in Ethiopia, in December 2018.

314. To conclude the session, Dr Modisane thanked Dr Cáceres and the WAHIAD team and, given the time constraints, requested the Assembly to contact Dr Cáceres and her Department if there were any further comments via information.dept@oie.int.

Presentation of proposed Resolutions drafted during plenary sessions

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 32
Amendments to the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals

315. 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.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 33
Amendments to the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code

316. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 33 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 33 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 34
Amendments to the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code

317. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 34 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously and the text appears under Resolution No. 34 at the end of this report.
318. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 36 for adoption.

319. The Delegates of Australia, Canada, Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Germany and New Zealand commented on draft Resolution No. 36.

320. Canada called for the Resolution to make an explicit reference to the obligation of Member countries to comply with their obligations to notify diseases to the OIE.

321. Australia raised a concern about the potential proliferation of Focal Points and asked if the OIE could provide services to support an additional Focal Point. The Delegate of Australia added that he could not identify an official for this purpose, other than himself. Australia asked for advice from the OIE as to the desirable number of national Focal Points.

322. France commented that it would be appropriate to consider the establishment of an additional Focal Point, as expressed in recommendation 5 of the draft Resolution. France agreed that countries sometimes struggle to organise a response to OIE requests. However, France supported reconsideration of the relative priority of Focal Points.

323. The Democratic Republic of the Congo commented that the questions relating to import and export were essential. It was important to consider the role, rather than the number of focal points. He noted that the issue of standards is often under the purview of the Ministry for Trade and supported consideration to create a new focal point.

324. Germany did not agree with the proposal for an additional Focal Point because this issue is implicitly covered by the recommendations 4 and 10. Therefore, Germany recommended the deletion of recommendation 5.

325. New Zealand sought clarification of the proposed modification of recommendation 9 (the addition of a reference to the obligation of Member Countries to notify diseases) and also called for the word “Agreement” to be inserted between “SPS” and “principles” in recommendation 8.

326. The Director General agreed with Germany and supported the deletion of recommendation 5. She also agreed that the OIE could make an assessment of existing focal points.

327. The President agreed that the Resolution would be modified in accordance with the recommendations of Delegates and the advice provided by the OIE Director General.

328. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 36 at the end of this report.
Regional Commission for Africa

329. Dr Komla Batasse Batawui (Togo), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 21 May 2018 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 86 SG/11B AF).

330. The Assembly noted the report.

Regional Commission for the Americas

331. Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques (Brazil), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 21 May 2018 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 86 SG/11B AM).

332. The Assembly noted the report.

Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

333. Dr Zhang Zhongqiu (People’s Republic of China), President of the Commission, presented the report on the meeting of the Commission held on 21 May 2018 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 86 SG/11B AS).

334. He also presented the recommendations of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, which was held in Putrajaya (Malaysia) from 20 to 24 November 2017.

335. The Assembly noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the Conference held in Malaysia.

Regional Commission for Europe

336. Dr Maris Balodis (Latvia), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 21 May 2018 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 86 SG/11B EU).

337. The Assembly noted the report.

Regional Commission for the Middle East

338. Dr Majid Al-Qassimi (United Arab Emirates), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 21 May 2018 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 86 SG/11B ME).

339. He also presented the recommendations of the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, which was held in Istanbul (Turkey), from 2 to 6 October 2017.

340. The Assembly noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the Conference held in Turkey.

Dates of the 87th General Session (May 2019)

341. The Assembly decided that the 87th General Session of the OIE would take place from Sunday 26 to Friday 31 May 2019. The Director General stated that the 87th General Session would again be held at the Maison de la Chimie up to and including the Thursday.
Technical Items for the 87th General Session (May 2019)

342. 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:

– How external factors (e.g. climate change, conflicts, socio-economics, trading patterns) will impact Veterinary Services, and the adaptations required

Members would be sent a preliminary questionnaire on this item.

343. Further to a previous decision of the Council, a second Technical Item (without a questionnaire) for 2019 would be determined by the Council at its meeting in February 2019 prior to the 87th General Session to enable the latest developments to be taken into account.

Technical Items for the 88th General Session (May 2020)

344. 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 presented by Dr Delgadillo Álvarez (Mexico) and Dr Schwabenbauer (Germany):

– Required competencies of Veterinary Services in the context of international trade: opportunities and challenges.

Members would be sent a preliminary questionnaire on this item.

345. Further to a previous decision of the Council, a second Technical Item (without a questionnaire) for 2020 would be determined by the Council at its meeting in February 2020 prior to the 88th General Session to enable the latest developments to be taken into account.

Issuing of certificates

Animal health statuses

346. Dr Weber-Vintzel, Head of the OIE Status Department, informed the Assembly of the development of a standard operating procedure for self-declaration of disease freedom. This publicly available procedure clarifies the existing mechanism, while increasing its robustness, consistency and transparency. She explained the different roles and responsibilities linked to the self-declarations and their publication, and clarified the differences between the procedures of self-declaration and official recognition of disease status. Finally, she highlighted the efforts made by the OIE to communicate on this new procedure and to increase the visibility of self-declarations to enhance their impact.

347. Before the disease status recognition certificates were awarded, Dr Stone hailed the sustained efforts deployed by those countries that had obtained an officially recognised disease status, and also paid tribute to countries that had not yet reached this stage but were continuing their efforts to achieve disease control and eradication with a view to obtaining an officially recognised disease status. He declared this to be a great day for the 10 countries referred to below and called upon them to maintain their hard-won status and fulfil their obligation to submit the required information each year.

348. The OIE Members listed hereafter were awarded a certificate from the OIE certifying that the country, or a zone of the country, was newly recognised by the OIE as having a disease free status or a BSE risk status: Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chinese Taipei, Costa Rica, Madagascar, Nicaragua, Peru, Suriname and Uruguay.
349. Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, Deputy Director General, in charge of Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities, reported on new Delegates to the OIE appointed in 2017 and the distribution of Member Countries by category of contribution.

350. He went on to present the main points regarding administrative activities and the distribution of the Organisation’s human resources between the Headquarters and the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations.

351. Lastly, he presented a breakdown of staff according to their source of funding, namely the Regular Budget, the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund and the secondment of staff by Members. He recalled the importance of the support provided by Members through in-kind contributions, in particular by secondments.

352. Ghana expressed its appreciation for the clear presentation delivered, while observing that it mostly covered positive results. It was suggested that more information be given regarding those topics for which the Organisation was requesting the support of the Assembly.

353. In response, the Director General stressed that the presentation made by Dr Dop aimed at providing the Assembly with an overview of the administrative activities carried out over the past year, and that budgetary constraints linked to the realisation of activities would be further presented by the Director of Finance.

354. The President of the Assembly further pointed out that the purpose of this presentation was to provide information on the management of the Organisation in support of the implementation of its mandate.

355. Uganda noted a clerical error relating to the number of Sub-Regional Representations. It was confirmed that there are indeed seven Sub-Regional Representations and one liaison office.


OIE Financial Report for the 91st Financial Year
(1 January – 31 December 2017)
(Doc. 86 SG/4)

357. Dr Dehove presented the salient points that had impacted budgetary implementation in 2017. This summary, the annual financial statements and all the accounting information on the financial situation of the various accounts managed by the OIE were provided in document 86 SG/4.

358. Regarding the OIE Financial Report for the 91st Financial Year (2017), Dr Dehove emphasised that the budget had been in balance and had been managed according to the established rules. He emphasised the importance of strengthening budgetary and financial management at a time of growth in the activity of the Organisation.

359. Despite the difficult world economic situation, Member Countries had fulfilled their commitments regarding payment of their statutory contributions and the amount of contributions actually received totalled EUR 6,710,613 out of a total amount called for of
EUR 7 933 517. The rate of recovery of contributions in 2017 was thus satisfactory at 85%. The rate of recovery of contributions including recovery of arrears totalled 94% in 2017 compared to 96% in 2016 and remained at a good level. Other income (excluding the World Fund) totalled EUR 3 million. This included income of an exceptional and one-off nature, thus accounting for the variation with regard to the estimated amount. A part of the variation related to the management of investments for the renovation of the animal health information system, WAHIS+ (integration of specific income received from donors and corresponding to expenditure on this investment in 2017 – see below). Total income recorded under the Regular Budget was EUR 11.53 million (compared to a voted budget of EUR 10.15 million).

360. Dr Dehove reminded the Assembly that the OIE had prepared a prudent budget for 2017. The General Directorate had taken steps to ensure rigorous management by controlling expenditure in order to preserve a balanced budget implementation. The total amount of expenses under the Regular Budget in 2017, which was lower than total recorded income, was EUR 11.53 million which was slightly lower than total recorded income (compared to a voted budget of 10.15 million). Staff costs, which accounted for 54% of Regular Budget expenses, required special attention. At 31 December 2017, out of the 185 persons working for the OIE, 107 were remunerated by the Regular Budget and the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations and 62 through the World Fund (33%), and 16 (8%) were seconded to the OIE by their organisation or country of origin.

361. Thus, while the OIE considered there was no significant risk of non-payment of statutory contributions, the Director of Finance emphasised that it was important to remain vigilant and to adapt activities to resources and that Delegates should take this into account when asking the OIE to develop its work programme. The level of the Organisation’s statutory activities (development of standards, collection and dissemination of animal health information, evaluation of countries’ sanitary status, meetings of the OIE’s governing bodies/statutory organs) and its operating costs (staff expenses, computer equipment, building maintenance, etc.) needed to be precisely aligned. At the end of the 2017 Financial Year, the balance of income to expenses showed a positive balance of only EUR 3 301, which did not allow a proposal to replenish the Reserve Fund in 2018. It was once again clear that the OIE would not be able to count on any budgetary availability to increase its activities or any self-financing capacity to fund projects such as the renovation of the WAHIS animal health information system, unless the Organisation were to benefit from specific voluntary contributions or an increase in statutory contributions.

362. In view of the scale of the WAHIS+ investment, particular efforts in terms of information had been made to explain the management of funding for this project. As the accounting amortisation of this investment was conducted within the framework of the Regular Budget, the income collected through the World Fund (voluntary contributions from donors) was transferred to the Regular Budget, ring-fenced and reserved for WAHIS+ (EUR 1.16 million in 2017). This specific income was being used as and when required to cover the WAHIS+ expenses recorded each year (EUR 312 000 in 2017). Maintenance of the existing OIE animal health information system (WAHIS) was financed by the Regular Budget.

363. Regarding the OIE’s property assets, no subsidies were received from Members in 2017 within the framework of the subscription (see Resolution No. 11 of 30 May 2008) to contribute to the purchase of the building at 14 rue de Prony. Dr Dehove noted that the annual voluntary contribution from France had been increased in 2015 and had enabled France to make in 2017, for the third consecutive year, an extraordinary contribution in category B, and this had helped to finance repayment of the bank loans contracted for the purchase of the building at 14 rue de Prony. The firm that had been renting two floors from the OIE decided to vacate the premises during the year 2017 and the corresponding rental was therefore received for the last year, along with compensation for termination of the lease that was paid in 2017. The OIE had now decided to reoccupy these premises for its own use. The loans contracted by the OIE to purchase the building at 14 rue de Prony, including the loan over a period of 25 years, had been renegotiated on two separate occasions, which led to a significant reduction of the bank interest in 2017 on these property loans. The amount still to be repaid totalled EUR 6 227 349 at 31 December 2017.
364. It was indicated that the accounts of the 12 OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations were presented in Chapter 2, Section 3 of doc. 86 SG/4 and that full details were available in the aforementioned document. Dr Dehove emphasised the recurrent budgetary balance difficulties of the Representations based in Africa (with the exception of the Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa), the Representations in Bamako, Nairobi and Gaborone each presenting a negative balance at the end of the year.

365. The Reserve Fund totalled EUR 2 430 311 at 31 December 2016. As a result of the allocation decided in 2016 and financial investment income in 2017, the net assets of the Reserve Fund totalled EUR 2 531 965 at 31 December 2017. This was equivalent to 3.04 months of budget implementation. In view of the weak positive balance of the Regular Budget at the end of the year, it would not be possible to allocate funds to the Reserve Fund in 2018.

World Animal Health and Welfare Fund

366. Dr Dehove stated that, in 2017, the 12th meeting of the Advisory Committee of the World Fund was held on 14 December 2017. The Committee was chaired by the Associate Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada, Dr Martine Dubuc, formerly Delegate of Canada.

367. The 11th meeting of the Management Committee of the World Fund was held on 17 May 2017 (examination of the accounts for 2016) and the 12th meeting of the Management Committee of the World Fund was held on 16 May 2018 (examination of the accounts for 2017).

368. Dr Dehove thanked the donors for their trust and support: at EUR 14.7 million, the annual income received by the OIE World Fund in 2017 was stable. A further progression of the average annual amount of income was recorded in 2017 (EUR 11.45 million annually for the period 2006–2017). Dr Dehove stated that the voluntary contributions received in 2017 (Statement of income by donor, page 74 of doc. 86 SG/4) totalled EUR 14 744 042. Furthermore, bank interest totalling EUR 93 187 was generated in 2017.

369. In 2017, 27 new contracts were signed with donors, resulting in a total of 91 active contracts at 31 December 2017 (compared to 101 at 31 December 2016), which included 18 contracts of more than EUR 1 million (4 of which were for amounts over EUR 5 million).

370. Operating expenses for 2017 totalled EUR 19 657 816 and were in large part devoted to financing Work Programme activities implemented by OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations (see pages 16 and 83 to 85 of doc. 86 SG/4). It should be noted that exceptional one-off expenses totalling EUR 3.8 million corresponding to sub-grants put in place with scientific partners. These operational expenses were covered by income received before 2017 and in 2017 (multiannual programmes).

371. In 2017, management expenses totalling EUR 757 000 collected through the World Fund were transferred to the Regular Budget (compared to EUR 502 000 in 2016).

372. The Director of Finance wished to thank all the Members (Argentina, Australia, Canada, China (People’s Rep. of), France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Switzerland, United Kingdom [Fleming Fund], and United States of America), international organisations (the European Union and the World Bank) and foundations and other organisations (the International Horse Sports Confederation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Pew Charitable Trusts) and various other donors (the Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines, the Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health, the Royal Veterinary College, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, St Jude Children’s Hospital and World Horse Welfare) that had contributed to the World Fund in 2017. These thanks would be the subject of a resolution of the Assembly.
To complete these presentations, the Director General reminded the Assembly of its decision to safeguard the statutory activities of the OIE, which were financed by the Regular Budget (activities relating to standard-setting, verification of countries' disease status, management of animal health information), whereas the World Fund was dedicated to solidarity activities and activities to support good governance in Member Countries and capacity-building for national Veterinary Services. She stated that this applied both to the Headquarters’ budget and to the budget for the Representations.

Reports of the Auditors and the External Auditor and adoption of the Financial Report for the 91st Financial Year (Docs 86 SG/15 and 86 SG/16)

The Assembly noted the report of the Auditors, Dr Mark Schipp (Australia) and Dr Karin Schwabenbauer (Germany), confirming the proper management of the OIE accounts, and the report of the External Auditor appointed by the OIE, Mr Didier Selles, presented by Mr Jean-Louis Lavigne in the absence of Mr Selles.

The Assembly noted the report of the External Auditor and his recommendations, both in terms of the question of funding for the Regional Representations, in Africa in particular, and of control of the operating expenses of these Representations, and in terms of the importance of internal control and the strengthening of purchasing and procurement procedures.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo requested further information concerning the loss of rent from the tenant at 14 rue de Prony. The Director of Finance confirmed that this loss had been foreseen and that the 2017 budget had been prepared taking this into consideration. The President confirmed that the Council had been kept informed of this situation.

Draft Resolution No. 3 approving the Financial Report for the 91st Financial Year was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 3 at the end of this report.

Acknowledgements to Members and partners that made voluntary contributions or subsidies to the OIE, or contributed to the organisation of OIE meetings and the provision of personnel

The Director General conveyed her warmest thanks to the partners:

– for their voluntary contributions or subsidies supporting the implementation of OIE programmes in 2017, as well as,

– for contributing to the organisation of OIE regional conferences, seminars and workshops held in 2017, and

– for providing staff remunerated directly by their country to assist with the implementation of OIE programmes in 2017.

Draft Resolution No. 4 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 4 at the end of this report.

Renewal of the Appointment of the External Auditor

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.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo expressed disappointment at the absence of the External Auditor for the second consecutive year. The President confirmed, however, that every year Mr Selles presented his report to the OIE Council. The Director General issued a reminder of the External Auditor’s functions within the Cour des comptes of the French Republic and underlined the importance of his observations to drive the OIE to constantly improve.

Draft Resolution No. 9 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 9 at the end of this report.
2018 Budget  
(Doc. 86 SG/5)

**Regular Budget**

383. Dr Dehove reminded Delegates that the initial Regular Budget for 2018 (EUR 11 295 000) had been adopted at the General Session in May 2017.

384. The new organisation of income in three sections: (1) statutory and extraordinary contributions, (2) operating income, (3) extraordinary income (including recovery of investment subsidies), and the new budget structure (to better reflect the analytical accounting chart and the different fields of activity of the OIE), as presented in May 2017, were used.

385. Two Members had confirmed that they would be contributing in extraordinary category A in 2018.

386. Since the initiation of an accrual accounting system in 2013, the OIE recognises the total amount of contributions for the year under ‘income’. Continuing the process of putting in place an accrual accounting system, the OIE had budgeted for 100% of the total amount of statutory contributions since the revised budget for 2016. This approach was maintained for the proposed revised 2018 Budget. In compliance with the accounting rules, the risk of non-recovery of contributions was recognised in the accounts by a depreciation provision.

387. In view of the agreements and conventions signed or confirmed for 2018, the estimated level of management expenses deducted from the grants received by the World Fund was expected to remain stable.

388. Since 2017, the voluntary contributions for the use of Arabic were included in OIE income.

389. The departure of the tenant who had rented the 2nd and 3rd floors of 14 rue de Prony had now eliminated this source of income. Income from rental of rooms was expected to remain relatively stable in conjunction with an increase in the (unremunerated) use of rooms for meetings organised by the OIE. A prudent revision of income such as the fees for evaluation of disease status application dossiers and investment income was also integrated. A specific income item to offset planned expenditure for the WAHIS+ project was also included.

390. In terms of income other than statutory and extraordinary contributions, the estimated figure was calculated at EUR 2 453 000.

391. The OIE had had to revise expense forecasts to take into account recognised commitments, while taking care to protect the budgets needed for animal health information, the preparation of international standards, support to control programmes for priority diseases, strengthening of human resource management, the establishment of a PVS Secretariat and the implementation of a new IT systems master plan.

392. The monitoring table of investments scheduled for 2018 (Appendix IV of doc. 86 SG/5) was expanded to provide more detail and a clearer separation between, on one hand, current work and investments (chiefly relating to upkeep of the two headquarters’ buildings) and, on the other hand, computer work and investments: implementation of a new IT systems master plan and management of investment in WAHIS+.

393. Dr Dehove concluded by stating that the 2018 Budget had been revised and set, in terms of income and expenses, at an amount of EUR 12 637 000.

394. The Delegate of Chile thanked the Director of Finance for his presentation. He noted that there were adjustments to the budget in terms of income and expenses: income from the sale of publications, the budget for regional activities, for example; and he suggested that certain meetings organised by OIE Regional Representations should be fewer in number to enable the corresponding budget to be allocated to more urgent needs (such as IT work).
Dr Dehove confirmed that the sale of publications was in decline and confirmed that the planned budget for regional activities that had been presented corresponded to the budget for the Regional Activities Department at the OIE Headquarters, the activities of which were expanding in 2018, rather than to expenses of the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations.

395. Draft Resolution No. 5 presenting the revised 2018 Budget was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 5 at the end of this report.

**Regional and Sub-Regional Representations**

396. Dr Dehove briefly presented the 2018 budget of the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. He emphasised that the budgetary situation of the four Representations in Africa remained very fragile in 2018.

**World Animal Health and Welfare Fund**

397. In accordance with the accrual-based accounting system, the OIE recognised the amounts of signed contracts within the framework of World Fund activities even though the corresponding funds had not yet been received: EUR 18 968 250 at 31 December 2017 (funds due to be received in 2018 and subsequent years), compared to EUR 28 210 553 at 31 December 2016 and EUR 18 997 454 at 31 December 2015. These amounts corresponded to multiannual contributions yet to be received under the terms of contracts already signed with donors. Other contracts and income were expected in 2018 and 2019, notably to fund the WAHIS+ project but were not yet recognised in the accounts (supplementary agreements being finalised, but not yet signed at 31 December 2017).

**Presentation of the Planned Working Programme for 2018–2019**

(Doc. 86 SG/6-A)

398. The Director General presented the broad lines of the Organisation’s Planned Working Programme for the months ahead, pointing out by way of introduction that her proposal had been prepared on the basis of the roadmap she had presented to the Assembly at the 84th General Session (May 2016) to implement the OIE’s Sixth Strategic Plan, and that the programme for 2018–2019 took into account the objectives already achieved and the actions already undertaken in 2017 and during the first months of 2018.

She also emphasised that close monitoring of the actions undertaken since 1 January 2016 would serve as the reference point for the OIE Council and General Directorate to start work, at the end of the year and more especially in 2019, on preparing the Seventh Strategic Plan, for the period 2021-2026, which would be submitted to the Delegates for approval at the General Session in May 2020.

For details of the Planned Working Programme, Delegates were invited to refer to doc. 86 SG/6-A. Over and above the administrative activities of managing the Organisation and monitoring institutional relations with Member Countries and partners, the Director General placed special emphasis on the following:

1. **The WAHIS+ project**

   Following the technical specification phase and the setting up of a project team in 2017, as well as the selection of an IT firm in the first quarter of 2018, after a tendering procedure, the first phase of application development would extend over a 14-month period, the aim being to present the first results at the General Session in May 2019. This first phase consisted of modernising the existing functionalities of WAHIS, including a user-friendly interface, an integrated GIS system capable of generating high quality maps and infographics, an effective data mining system and an automatic translation system in the OIE’s three official languages.
The project's governance bodies, namely the Strategic Committee and the Users Committee, would be consulted periodically.

The WAHIS+ project would also make it possible to work on consolidating the partnership with other international organisations, notably in the field of risk analysis, in particular for diseases of common interest for FAO, WHO and OIE within the framework of their Tripartite collaboration.

2. **Standard-setting activities**

The Director General stated that the primary objective was to maintain the scientific excellence of the work carried out at each stage in the development of OIE standards so as to ensure their relevance, strengthen their recognition as international standards and, ultimately, maintain the credibility of the OIE. Thus, following the renewal of the members of the four Specialist Commissions at the General Session in May 2018, in accordance with the new procedure for selecting candidates, the Standards Department would, during the first year of the mandate, be undertaking the important task of providing the experts with training/information on their duties, thereby enabling the provisions of Resolution No. 11 of 28 May 2015 on the creation of a performance committee for the evaluation of the Specialist Commissions to be effectively implemented.

Following the reform of the OIE's organisational structure, the Secretariats for the four Specialist Commissions were now supervised by the Standards Department to ensure greater consistency in the work of the said Commissions and the follow-up of Member Country comments, and better coordination of the monitoring of the work of the Working Groups and ad hoc Groups by the Specialist Commissions. Harmonised procedures for working methods had been finalised.

3. **The OIE's standard-setting activities in the field of animal welfare** would be continued, in accordance with the priorities approved by the World Assembly of Delegates. The Standards Department would ensure that actions foreseen in the global strategy and/or the regional strategies are implemented, in particular by organising the regular meeting of the dialogue forum with the main partners, such as animal welfare organisations and representatives of the professional sector.

4. Lastly, as discussed on the occasion of the Technical Item, the OIE would **continue to develop the Observatory** notably aimed at identifying the difficulties and constraints faced by Member Countries in applying OIE standards, and with the help of a partnership with the OECD, which had been providing invaluable methodological support. Promotion of the project would continue, using every opportunity provided by international meetings, and the support of OIE Members, for the operational deployment of the project.

5. With regard to **veterinary medicinal products and antimicrobial resistance**, activities relating to the implementation of the OIE’s strategy on the responsible and prudent use of veterinary medicinal products, and in particular antimicrobial agents, in order to control the development of resistance to antibiotics, were a priority mission of the OIE. In collaboration with WHO and FAO, activities in the field of antimicrobial resistance would be maintained, in particular by providing Member Countries with support for the development and implementation of their national action plans; in this respect, the OIE was participating in and contributing to the work of the intersectoral Secretariat created in application of the policy decision of General Assembly of the United Nations (September 2016) and hosted by WHO in Geneva, Switzerland.

Lastly, the preparation and subsequent follow-up of the conclusions and recommendations of the global conference on the subject being organised by the OIE and to be held in Morocco in October 2018 would be on the agenda in the coming months.
6. Regarding the support given to Members, Dr Eloit mentioned, among others:

- the examination of applications for recognition of official disease status, in accordance with the revised procedures for the six diseases;

- the operational implementation of the work programme relating to the PVS Pathway, along the lines previously presented, which requires investments to develop its design, methodology and expert pool to ensure the effective delivery of the PVS Pathway at a global level, including for the aquatic sector;

- support for Member Countries with implementing global strategies to control and eradicate priority diseases (PPR, FMD, rabies).

7. Ultimately, the Director General mentioned actions taken to improve the OIE’s internal governance, namely:

- the Human Resources policy: the Director General wished to underline the importance of putting in place a human resources policy, reminding the Assembly that the financial support of donors for OIE activities relied on the performance of OIE personnel. She explained that she had wished to strengthen the human resources of the Organisation by allocating a part of the increase in the revised budget to strengthening its teams;

- information systems, with the need to modernise office equipment and IT systems to facilitate day-to-day work and improve staff productivity. Dr Eloit also recalled that the WAHIS platform had been inaccessible during the month of January 2017 and stressed the urgent need to renew the IT systems in order to ensure continuity of service, data security and system stability. She pointed out that a new IT master plan had been drawn up for the period 2018–2019, presented to the Council in September 2017 and included in the 2018 and 2019 budgets;

- strengthening of the technical and administrative capacities of OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, in view of their essential role in implementing programmes and in relations with Member Countries;

- promotion of the OIE’s scientific publications.

8. Dr Eloit further informed the Assembly that Regional Conferences would be held in 2018 in Europe (in September in Georgia) and the Americas (in November in the Dominican Republic), and in 2019 in Africa (in February in Tunisia), Asia, the Far East and Oceania (in September in Japan) and the Middle East (in November in the United Arab Emirates).

9. She noted that two global conferences had been scheduled up to 2020, namely a conference on aquatic animals in April 2019, hosted by Chile, and another in late 2019 or early 2020 on the relationship between the evolution of animal diseases, in particular vector-borne diseases, and climate change or certain socioeconomic factors. She noted that this second conference would illustrate some of the changes in WAHIS+ in terms of the integration of data to complement the information on animal disease outbreaks, and would provide an opportunity to develop closer relations with partner international organisations.

10. Dr Eloit concluded by emphasising that these activities would be supported by active communication and would be deployed while seeking to strengthen partnerships. All these topics would again be considered with the Council during the preparation of the Seventh Strategic Plan, and then with Members within the framework of the corresponding budgetary dialogue.
Proposed 2019 Contributions Scale and 2019 Budget Estimates
(Doc. 86 SG/6-B)

399. The Director of Finance began by presenting the main points contained in the explanatory note on the OIE budget sent to all Delegates with the administrative documents and financial reports.

400. This note stemmed from discussions on budgetary matters that had taken place with the Council in September 2017 and February 2018 and was aimed at providing more explicit information on the budgetary strategy of the Organisation. In particular, the Council had asked the OIE to provide details of the main savings that had been achieved and the use that had been made of the additional funds corresponding to the increase in statutory contributions voted in May 2017 (2018 Budget). The Council also asked for a study to be made of a mechanism to take inflation into account so that future changes in statutory contributions would be more predictable.

401. Thus, apart from the occasional higher increases in contributions that were voted for the contributions for 2002 (+25%), 2007 and 2018 (+20%), the OIE had presented increases in annual contributions that fluctuated between 1% and 9% during the period 2001-2016 (and no increase for 2011, 2013 or 2017). In response to the request by the Council, the OIE had compared the rates of inflation published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and by the World Bank during these periods. This showed that the annual rate of inflation measured by the consumer price index (CPI) published by the OECD ('OECD Total CPI'), and lower than that published by the World Bank, was 1.85% on average for the period 2008–2017. With the agreement of the Council, the OIE now proposed that, each year, the Resolution relating to the financial contributions of OIE Members take into account the annual consumer price index (OECD Total CPI) for the previous year, when calculating the financial contributions of OIE Members for the following year. This provision would apply with effect from May 2018 (OECD Total CPI for 2017 to be taken into account when calculating the contributions for 2019); this provision would not preclude any other increases in OIE Members’ financial contributions needed for the development of OIE activities. Under the proposal, the OIE would call for only 50% of the total contributions due, in accordance with the six-category scale, from the Members classified as LDCs (Least Developed Countries) by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. This proposal was contained in draft Resolution No. 15.

402. With regard to the 2019 Budget, the Director of Finance indicated that it had been built taking into account the priorities announced by the Director General (doc. 86 SG/6-A).

403. Dr Dehove presented the expense estimates for 2019, which took into consideration the Sixth Strategic Plan, the need to finance the IT Master Plan, the management of WAHIS+ investment, requests for new or strengthened activities and the estimated income of the Regular Budget, other than that derived from statutory contributions and extraordinary contributions.

404. Taking into account the effects of Resolution No. 15 (Taking an annual price index into account when calculating the annual contributions of OIE Members), it was proposed that the 2019 Contributions Scale be modified. The value of the contribution unit was set at EUR 8 410. For 2019, the total theoretical amount of contributions would thus be EUR 9 773 744, rounded to EUR 9 773 000 for the purposes of establishing the Regular Budget for the Headquarters.

405. Since the initiation of an accrual accounting system, the OIE now recognised the total amount of contributions for the year under ‘income’. Continuing the process of putting in place an accrual accounting system, the Director General had proposed to budget for 100% of the total amount of statutory contributions with effect from May 2016. This approach was being maintained for the 2019 Budget. In compliance with the accounting rules, the risk of non-recovery of contributions would then be recognised in the accounts by means of a depreciation provision.
406. Under the mechanism established by Resolution No. VI of 24 May 2006, a part of each contribution unit would be allocated, provided that the contribution had actually been paid, to the budget of the Regional Representation corresponding to the Regional Commission of which the country was primarily a member.

407. Two Members having already indicated their intention to contribute in Category A, it was proposed that income of EUR 621 550 be entered under this heading. This amount represented the difference between the amount of the extraordinary contribution to be paid and the corresponding statutory category.

408. On this basis, the draft Regular Budget for 2019 (93rd Financial Year), as presented, was balanced in terms of income and expenses in an amount of EUR 12 770 000. Income would consist mainly of statutory contributions (EUR 9 773 000) and the payment of two extraordinary contributions. Other income was estimated at EUR 2 375 450 (operating income, such as registration fees, sales of publications, fees for evaluation of disease status application dossiers, World Fund overheads, internal contributions, other operating income, investment income, extraordinary income including recovery of subsidies, etc.).

409. The Delegate of Chile congratulated the OIE on the planned working programme and the corresponding budget, and on the proposal for an increase based on applying the OECD Total CPI, which he considered relevant and useful to support Delegates in their negotiations within their countries regarding the increased statutory contributions to the OIE. Notwithstanding, the Delegate of Chile informed the Assembly that the timeframe for countries to accept an increase in contributions could take longer than one year. Chile suggested that the OIE take this point into account in its budget.

410. The Delegate of Switzerland thanked the Director of Finance for his presentation and the savings made by the OIE. Switzerland confirmed its support for the proposal regarding the use of the OECD Total CPI, which was clear, comprehensible and based on international standards.

411. The Delegate of the United States of America reminded the Assembly of the instructions given by his administration that obliged him to vote against any proposal to increase the statutory contributions.

412. The President invited the Assembly to consider the trends in increases and the associated difficulties in convincing national governments to agree to ad hoc increases to the statutory contributions. In addition, he reminded the Assembly of the OIE Council’s support for this progressive approach to support the implementation of the OIE planned working programme.

413. The Delegate of Australia confirmed his support and stressed that this proposal for an increase based on the application of the OECD Total CPI was a better approach, facilitating the preparation of the national budget, and as a result, he envisaged programming a 3% annual increase when estimating the statutory contributions to be paid to the OIE.

414. The Director General thanked the Assembly for its support for the activities of the OIE despite the financial constraints that the Delegates themselves had to face concerning the budget of their services.

415. Draft Resolution No. 15 (Taking an annual price index into account when calculating the annual contributions of OIE Members) was adopted with 107 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 7 abstentions.

416. Draft Resolution No. 6 (Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 93rd Financial Year of the OIE, 1 January to 31 December 2019) was adopted with 113 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 1 abstention.

417. Draft Resolution No. 7 (Financial Contributions from OIE Member Countries for 2019) was adopted with 108 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 6 abstentions.

418. Draft Resolution No. 8 (Planned Working Programme for 2018–2019) was adopted unanimously.

419. Resolutions Nos 6, 7, 8 and 15 appear at the end of this report.
420. In her concluding remarks to the Assembly, the Director General acknowledged the Delegates’ constant support for the Organisation despite the many budgetary and administrative constraints they faced, and she reiterated her personal commitment, and that of the teams at the Headquarters and the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, to accomplishing the missions entrusted to them.

**Friday 25 May 2018**

**SECOND ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION**

Activities of the Council  
(Doc. 86 SG/18)

421. The President presented document 86 SG/18 summarising the activities of the Council between May 2017 and May 2018, chiefly devoted to monitoring the implementation of the Sixth Strategic Plan and the strategic orientations of the OIE. In particular, the Council worked on the resource mobilisation strategy with a view to putting forward proposals to the Assembly of Delegates to ensure the necessary resources to achieve the strategic objectives of the Plan. The Council also approved the composition of the Evaluation Committee and the Evaluation Guide for examining candidatures for election to the Specialist Commissions, a list of candidates having been placed at the disposal of the Delegates 60 days before the General Session. The Council closely monitored the projects to modernise the Organisation and was regularly kept informed of ongoing administrative and technical initiatives. In this respect, it approved the approach concerning the WAHIS+ project. Lastly, the Council prepared the 86th General Session, paying particular attention to administrative, budgetary and statutory matters.

422. The Council was also kept informed of relations with international partners and approved the signing of agreements with the International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern African (COMESA).

423. The President informed the Delegates of his journeys to participate in various meetings and conferences, which had enabled him to observe and support the many achievements of the OIE.

424. The Assembly adopted the report on the activities of the Council as presented (doc. 85 SG/18).

Examination of the application by Saint Lucia for accession to the OIE

425. Following a reminder of the legal framework, the President informed the Assembly that the Council had examined the application by Saint Lucia for accession to the OIE at its meeting in February 2018 and had approved it unanimously. Dr Dop presented Saint Lucia to the Assembly, pointing out background historical and geographical facts and emphasising the efforts undertaken by the country to strengthen the livestock sector with a view to diversifying sources of production. Consequently, the President now sought the approval of the Assembly.

426. Draft Resolution No. 13 was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 13 at the end of this report. Saint Lucia thus became the 182nd Member of the OIE.

427. The newly designated Delegate of Saint Lucia thanked the President of the Assembly and the Delegates for the decision and expressed her gratitude at becoming the 182nd Member of the OIE. She presented the flag of her country and received in exchange the flag of the OIE.

428. The Delegate of Brazil, on behalf of all the countries of the Americas, expressed his satisfaction over the designation of a new member in the region. He thanked the Organisation for the work done in support of this application and wished every success to the new Member. He further highlighted the support provided by Brazil to the application process, as part of a wider project aiming to enhance the outreach of the OIE in the region by including six potential new Members in the future.
429. Dr Dop presented the draft Memorandum of Understanding with ICFAW, approved by the Council.

430. Draft Resolution No. 11 was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 11 at the end of this report.

Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW) (Doc. 86 SG/19)

431. Dr Dop presented the draft Agreement with COMESA, approved by the Council.

432. Draft Resolution No. 12 was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 12 at the end of this report.

Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) (Doc. 86 SG/20)

433. In accordance with the Statutes, the President verified the number of participants and the list of Delegates eligible to vote. As 117 Member Countries were present, the quorum was reached. Only 111 Member Countries were eligible to vote. As the number of participants exceeded the quorum (92 present), voting could take place. Dr Schwabenbauer and Dr El Sheikh were designated as scrutineers.

Verification of the quorum for elections

434. The President asked the Assembly to present candidatures for this election. The only candidature put forward was for Dr Mark Schipp (Australia), which was presented by the Delegate of Singapore and supported by numerous other Delegates including Paraguay and Japan. The election took place by electronic voting.

Dr Schipp obtained 80 votes.

There were five blank votes.

The President declared that Dr Schipp had been elected President of the Assembly of the OIE.

Election of the Vice-President of the Assembly

435. The President asked the Assembly to present candidatures for this election. The candidature of Dr Majid Al Qassimi (United Arab Emirates) was put forward by the Delegate of Lebanon and supported by several other Delegates including Jordan and Morocco; the candidature of Dr Hugo Federico Idoyaga Benitez (Paraguay) was put forward by the Delegate of Barbados and supported by numerous other Delegates including Belize and Cuba. The election took place by electronic voting.

Dr Majid Al Qassimi (United Arab Emirates) : 44 votes
Dr Idoyaga Benitez (Paraguay) : 56 votes

There was one blank vote.

The President declared that Dr Idoyaga Benitez had been elected as Vice-President of the Assembly.
Election of the Members of the Council

436. Following consultations during the meetings of the Regional Commissions, the President invited each region to present its candidates, the Assembly having unanimously agreed to electronic voting in a sequential manner.

The following were elected as Members of the Council:

– For the Africa Region:
  Dr Komla Batassé Batawui (Togo) : 87 votes 9 blank votes

– For the Americas Region:
  Dr Joaquín Delgadillo Álvarez (Mexico) : 87 votes 7 blank votes

– For the Asia, the Far East and Oceania Region:
  Dr Him Hoo Yap (Singapore) : 82 votes 10 blank votes

– For the Europe Region:
  Dr Christianne Bruschke (The Netherlands) : 82 votes 11 blank votes
  Dr Evgeny Nepoklonov (Russia) : 75 votes 16 blank votes

– For the Middle East Region:
  Dr Majid Al Qassimi (United Arab Emirates) : 80 votes 9 blank votes.

Election of the Members of the Regional Commissions

437. The President invited the Presidents of each Regional Commission to make proposals concerning the composition of the new Bureaux. He proposed that voting be conducted by show of hands, which was accepted by the Assembly. The Assembly adopted the following proposals for the five Commissions below:

Regional Commission for Africa (unanimously)

  President : Dr Honoré Robert N’lemba Mabela (Dem. Rep. of the Congo)
  Vice-President : Dr Malek Zrelli (Tunisia)
  Vice-President : Dr Letlhogile Modisa (Botswana)
  Secretary General : Dr Mbargou Lo (Senegal)

Regional Commission for the Americas (unanimously)

  President : Dr Mark Trotman (Barbados)
  Vice-President : Dr Nimia Lissette Gómez Rodríguez (Dominican Republic)
  Vice-President : Dr Javier Ernesto Suárez Hurtado (Bolivia)
  Secretary General : Dr Jaspinder Komal (Canada)

Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (unanimously)

  President : Dr Sovann Sen (Cambodia)
  Vice-President : Dr Tashi Samdup (Bhutan)
  Vice-President : Dr Zongqiu Zhang (People’s Republic of China)
  Secretary General : Dr Norio Kumagai (Japan)
Regional Commission for Europe (unanimously)

President : Dr Maris Balodis (Latvia)
Vice-President : Dr Ulrich Herzog (Austria)
Vice-President : Dr Budimir Plavšić (Serbia)
Secretary General : Dr Aliaksandr Subotsin (Belarus)

Regional Commission for the Middle East (unanimously)

President : Dr Elias Ibrahim (Lebanon)
Vice-President : Dr Fajer Al Salloom (Bahrain)
Vice-President : Dr Ali Al Doweriej (Saudi Arabia)
Secretary General : Dr Mahmoud Al Hanatleh (Jordan)

Election of the Members of the Specialist Commissions

438. The President stated that a list of candidates drawn up by the OIE Council following the evaluation of candidatures by the Evaluation Committee had been placed at the disposal of Delegates 60 days before the General Session. He reminded the Assembly that a finalised list of candidates for each region had been discussed at the meetings of the Regional Commissions and that the results had been presented by each of the Presidents of the Regional Commissions the previous day. He proposed that electronic voting take place on the basis of this list for each of the Specialist Commissions, position by position, which was agreed to by the Assembly.

439. The Delegate of the United-States of America remarked that as candidates put forward for election had been nominated by their Delegates and endorsed by the relevant Regional Commission, the Assembly could consider that the nomination procedure, including support by other countries, had been carried out during the Regional Commission meetings.

440. The Director General reminded the Assembly that the procedure set out in the OIE Basic Texts required official nomination, but that the Assembly could agree to recognise the procedure carried out in the framework of the Regional Commissions as sufficient for the election of members of the Commissions, except for those holding a specific position.

441. The President proposed that the Assembly recognise that the official nomination procedure for the three members of each Commission had been held during the meetings of the Regional Commissions. As the Assembly unanimously agreed with the proposal, the nominations to be put to a vote were therefore for the President and the two Vice-President of each Commission.

442. 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 Australia and supported by numerous other Delegates, including Germany and Macedonia.

The election took place by electronic voting.

Dr Ernst obtained 91 votes.

There were seven blank votes.

The President declared that Dr Ernst had been elected as President.
First Vice-President
The only candidature was for Dr Alicia Gallardo (Chile), which was put forward by the Delegate of Barbados and supported by numerous other Delegates, including Mexico and Cuba.

The election took place by electronic voting.

   Dr Gallardo obtained 88 votes.

There were four blank votes.

The President declared that Dr Gallardo 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 numerous other Delegates, including Ireland and Russia.

The election took place by electronic voting.

   Dr Peeler obtained 90 votes.

There were five blank 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 electronic voting. The results were as follows:

First round:
- Dr Kevin Christison (South Africa) : 24 votes
- Dr Joanne Constantine (Canada) : 21 votes
- Dr Liu Hong (P.R. China) : 16 votes
- Dr Atle Lillehaug (Norway) : 27 votes

There were five blank votes.

The President declared that Dr Lillehaug had been elected as Member of the Commission.

Second round:
- Dr Kevin Christison (South Africa) : 39 votes
- Dr Joanne Constantine (Canada) : 21 votes
- Dr Liu Hong (P.R. China) : 33 votes

There was one blank vote.

The President declared that Dr Christison had been elected as Member of the Commission.

Third round:
- Dr Joanne Constantine (Canada) : 31 votes
- Dr Liu Hong (P.R. China) : 58 votes

There were four blank votes.

The President declared that Dr Liu had been elected as Member of the Commission.
The Delegate of Spain suggested that for positions where a single candidate was nominated, voting could take place by a show of hands to facilitate the election process. President Modisane proposed that voting by show of hands be used in such cases, to which the Assembly unanimously agreed.

444. **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 Emmanuel Couacy-Hymann (Côte d’Ivoire), which was put forward by the Delegate of Togo and supported by numerous other Delegates, including South Africa and Benin.

The election took place by show of hands.

The President declared that Dr Couacy-Hymann had been unanimously elected as President.

**First Vice-President**

The candidature of Dr John Pasick (Canada) was put forward by the Delegate of Paraguay and supported by numerous other Delegates, including Colombia and Bolivia; the candidature of Dr Franck Berthe (France) was put forward by the Delegate of France and supported by numerous other Delegates, including Ireland and Russia.

The election took place by electronic voting.

The results of the vote were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr John Pasick (Canada)</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Franck Berthe (France)</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There were two blank votes.

The President declared that Dr Berthe had been elected as first Vice-President.

**Second Vice-President**

As only two candidates had been put forward for the position of Vice-President, the President proposed to the Assembly that the second-ranked candidate for first Vice-President be elected as second Vice-President. The Assembly decided unanimously not to proceed with another round of voting.

The President declared that Dr Pasick had been elected as second Vice-President.

**Members (3)**

Six candidatures were put forward and the election took place by electronic voting. The results were as follows:

**First round:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Mehdi El Harrak (Morocco)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Ana Maria Nicola (Argentina)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Joseph O’Keefe (New Zealand)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Ann Cullinane (Ireland)</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Ilya Chvala (Russia)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Zhiliang Wang (P.R. China)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There were two blank votes.

The President declared that Dr Cullinane had been elected as Member of the Commission.
Second round:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Mehdi El Harrak (Morocco)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Ana Maria Nicola (Argentina)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Joseph O’Keefe (New Zealand)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Ilya Chvala (Russia)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Zhiliang Wang (P.R. China)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There were four blank votes.

The President declared that Dr O’Keefe had been elected as Member of the Commission.

Third round:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Mehdi El Harrak (Morocco)</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Ana Maria Nicola (Argentina)</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Ilya Chvala (Russia)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Zhiliang Wang (P.R. China)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There were two blank votes.

The President declared that Dr Nicola had been elected as Member of the Commission.

445. **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 Latvia and supported by numerous other Delegates, including Belgium and South Africa.

The election took place by show of hands.

The President declared that Dr Bonbon had been unanimously elected as President.

**First Vice-President**

The candidature of Dr Gastón Funes (Argentina) was put forward by the Delegate of Paraguay and supported by numerous other Delegates, including Bolivia and Colombia; the candidature of Dr Masatsugu Okita (Japan) was put forward by the Delegate of Cambodia and supported by numerous other Delegates, including Mongolia and Japan.

The election took place by electronic voting.

The results of the vote were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Gastón Funes (Argentina)</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Masatsugu Okita (Japan)</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There was one blank vote.

The President declared that Dr Funes had been elected as first Vice-President.

**Second Vice-President**

As only two candidates had been put forward for the position of Vice-President, the President proposed to the Assembly that the second-ranked candidate for first Vice-President be elected as second Vice-President. The Assembly decided unanimously not to proceed with another round of voting.

The President declared that Dr Okita had been elected as second Vice-President.
Members (3)

Five candidatures were put forward and the election took place by electronic voting. The results were as follows:

First round
- Dr Salah Hammami (Tunisia): 22 votes
- Dr Babiker Abbas (Sudan): 7 votes
- Dr Lucio Carbajo Goñi (Spain): 32 votes
- Dr Bernardo Todeschini (Brazil): 16 votes
- Dr Howard Pharo (New Zealand): 16 votes

The President declared that Dr Carbajo Goñi had been elected as Member of the Commission.

Second round
- Dr Salah Hammami (Tunisia): 47 votes
- Dr Babiker Abbas (Sudan): 5 votes
- Dr Bernardo Todeschini (Brazil): 26 votes
- Dr Howard Pharo (New Zealand): 20 votes

There was one blank vote.

The President declared that Dr Hammami had been elected as Member of the Commission.

Third round
- Dr Babiker Abbas (Sudan): 25 votes
- Dr Bernardo Todeschini (Brazil): 33 votes
- Dr Howard Pharo (New Zealand): 28 votes

The President declared that Dr Todeschini had been elected as Member of the Commission.

446. 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 Cristóbal Zepeda (United States of America), which was put forward by the Delegate of the United States of America and supported by numerous other Delegates, including Colombia and Honduras.

The election took place by show of hands.

The President declared that Dr Zepeda had been unanimously elected as President.

First Vice-President
The candidature of Dr Kris De Clercq (Belgium) was put forward by the Delegate of Belgium and supported by numerous other Delegates, including France and Greece; the candidature of Dr Baptiste Dungu (South Africa) was put forward by the Delegate of South Africa and supported by numerous other Delegates, including Swaziland and Benin.

The election took place by electronic voting.

The results of the vote were as follows:
- Dr Kris De Clercq (Belgium): 56 votes
- Dr Baptiste Dungu (South Africa): 34 votes

There was one blank vote.

The President declared that Dr De Clercq had been elected as first Vice-President.
Second Vice-President

As only two candidates had been put forward for the position of Vice-President, the President proposed to the Assembly that the second-ranked candidate for first Vice-President be elected as second Vice-President. The Assembly decided unanimously not to proceed with another round of voting.

The President declared that Dr Dungu had been elected as second Vice-President.

Members (3)

Six candidatures were put forward and the election took place by electronic voting. The results were as follows:

First round

Dr Misheck Mulumba (Zambia) : 17 votes
Dr Vitor Picao Goncalves (Brazil) : 17 votes
Dr Zengren Zheng (P.R. China) : 11 votes
Dr Stephen Cobb (New Zealand) : 6 votes
Dr Silvia Bellini (Italy) : 36 votes
Dr Artem Metlin (Russia) : 6 votes

There was one blank vote.

The President declared that Dr Bellini had been elected as Member of the Commission.

Second round

Dr Misheck Mulumba (Zambia) : 35 votes
Dr Vitor Picao Goncalves (Brazil) : 18 votes
Dr Zengren Zheng (P.R. China) : 16 votes
Dr Stephen Cobb (New Zealand) : 3 votes
Dr Artem Metlin (Russia) : 9 votes

There were two blank votes.

The President declared that Dr Mulumba had been elected as Member of the Commission.

Third round

Dr Vitor Picao Goncalves (Brazil) : 27 votes
Dr Zengren Zheng (P.R. China) : 44 votes
Dr Stephen Cobb (New Zealand) : 5 votes
Dr Artem Metlin (Russia) : 8 votes

There was one blank vote.

The President declared that Dr Zheng had been elected as Member of the Commission.

447. 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.
EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION

Presentation of the adopted Resolutions and the Draft Final Report

448. The Resolutions already adopted during the General Session were distributed.

449. Noting the extensive discussions that took place on Resolution No. 34, President Modisane invited the Delegates to provide any outstanding comments on the topic. No other comments were provided on Resolution No. 34.

450. The Final Report of the technical and administrative sessions would be sent to the Delegates at the beginning of the following week. The Delegates had until 15 June 2018 to submit in writing any rectifications to the report, no amendments being permitted to the adopted Resolutions.

451. The Director General informed the Assembly that the General Session had, this year, been attended by 150 Delegates, representatives from five observer countries and territories, 21 guests of honour and a total of over 950 participants. She also explained that social media communication had been prioritised over the traditional press conferences as it was more efficient and involved fewer constraints, and she noted that social media communication had greatly increased compared to previous years. She highlighted that these communication channels enhanced the outreach and visibility of OIE activities and should be increasingly used.

452. Dr Eloït announced the results of the “OIE Rinderpest Serious Game”, the winners of which were Bhutan (1900 points), Ireland (1600), France (350 points), Portugal (150 points) and Zimbabwe (100 points). She pointed out that this entertaining interactive game was an effective way of reminding the public of the need to remain alert to the risk of a re-emergence of rinderpest, and remarked that modern communication methods of this sort provided an effective way to raise awareness of the importance of surveillance for animal diseases.

453. President Modisane thanked the members of the delegations for their presence alongside the Delegates and acknowledged the part they had played in the success of this General Session.

Transfer of office to the new President

454. President Modisane congratulated Dr Schipp on being elected President of the OIE Assembly. He drew the Assembly's attention to the challenges that the Organisation must address, within the context of the Sixth Strategic Plan. He gave the floor to President Schipp.

455. President Schipp thanked Dr Modisane and congratulated all the elected members of the Commissions. He paid tribute to the sustained work of Dr Modisane, the members of the Council and the Director General during the past years. He conveyed his thanks to Dr Modisane for the effectiveness with which he had presided over the destiny of the OIE and for his personal commitment and engagement towards the OIE.

456. President Schipp reminded the Assembly that he had served as the Delegate for Australia for seven years and on the Council for the past six years. He outlined three key areas in which he hoped to make a significant contribution as President, namely:

- Engagement and participation: he stressed the necessity for OIE Delegates to be active and enthusiastic contributors to and advocates of the activities of the Organisation. He expressed his wish to pursue an open and engaged dialogue with all Members, working closely with the Presidents of the Regional Commissions to strengthen Member participation and contribution to the global veterinary voice. He highlighted the relevance of the OIE Observatory of standards project in supporting participation in the standard-setting process and the implementation of standards.
Transparency: President Schipp pointed out that the transparency of procedures and strong governance were essential to the effectiveness of the standard-setting process and the respect of OIE activities, and expressed his wish to build on past efforts on this topic to further strengthen the Organisation's procedures.

Strengthening the veterinary voice in global discussions: he reminded the Assembly that the Organisation provided Members with the opportunity to raise a strong, coordinated voice on veterinary public health issues at the global level, including on policy issues dominated by other sectors such as AMR. He emphasised that he wished to further strengthen the contribution of the OIE in global policy discussions.

457. The Director General expressed her support for the vision of the President and remarked that the major pillars of work he had outlined would serve for the development of the Seventh Strategic Plan. Dr Eloit further thanked Dr Modisane for the effective collaboration and the work carried out over the course of his mandate.

458. Dr Eloit thanked all the staff involved in the organisation of the General Session for their hard work in ensuring the smooth running of the event. She also took the opportunity to highlight the work carried out by a member of the Events Coordination Unit, Elisabeth Boucaud, who had been partly responsible for the coordination of the General Session for the past 25 years and would be retiring shortly. She praised her work throughout the mandate of three successive Directors General and eight Presidents of the Assembly and thanked her for having participated in the success of the General Session.

459. The Director General further emphasised the extensive support that Dr Karin Schwabenbauer had given the Organisation through her time as Delegate of Germany and President of the Assembly. She reminded the Assembly that Dr Schwabenbauer had been instrumental in the development of the Sixth Strategic Plan and thanked her for her support for the activities of the OIE.

460. The Director General thanked the President and all the other elected officers. She also thanked the Delegates for their active participation and their willingness to seek a consensus despite cultural and contextual differences.

Closing Session

461. 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 and Sub-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 86th General Session closed. He wished the Delegates a safe journey home.

462. He invited the Delegates to return for the 87th General Session in May 2019.

.../Resolutions/Recommendations/Regional Commission Reports
Resolutions

Adopted by the World Assembly of OIE Delegates
during their 86th General Session

20 – 25 May 2018
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<td>No. 3</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Designation of OIE Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animal diseases</td>
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<td>No. 17</td>
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<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Register of diagnostic kits validated and certified by the OIE</td>
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<td>No. 20</td>
<td>Designation of Facilities as Approved for Holding Rinderpest Virus Containing Material</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 23</td>
<td>Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Foot and Mouth Disease of Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 24</td>
<td>Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 25</td>
<td>Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia of Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 26</td>
<td>Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 27</td>
<td>Recognition of the African Horse Sickness Status of Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 28</td>
<td>Recognition of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Status of Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 29</td>
<td>Recognition of the Classical Swine Fever Status of Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 30</td>
<td>Designation of OIE Reference Laboratories for aquatic animal diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 31</td>
<td>Suspension of OIE Reference Laboratory status for aquatic animal diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 32</td>
<td>Amendments to the <em>Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 33</td>
<td>Amendments to the <em>OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 34</td>
<td>Amendments to the <em>OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 35</td>
<td>No resolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 36</td>
<td>Implementation of OIE standards by OIE Member Countries: state of play and specific capacity-building needs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RESOLUTION No. 1

Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2017

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 2017 (86 SG/1).

_______________

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 21 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)
RESOLUTION No. 2

Approval of the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2017

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 2017 (86 SG/3).

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)
RESOLUTION No. 3

Approval of the Financial Report for the 91st Financial Year of the OIE
(1 January – 31 December 2017)

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 91st Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2017) (86 SG/4).

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)
RESOLUTION No. 4

Acknowledgements to the Members 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 2017 and the meetings organised by the OIE in 2017,

THE ASSEMBLY

REQUESTS

The Director General to sincerely thank:

1. Argentina, Australia, Canada, China (People's Rep. of), France, Germany, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, New Zealand, Oman, Panama, Qatar, Russia, Switzerland, United Kingdom (Fleming Fund), United States of America;

   The European Union (European Commission and European Parliament), the Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (OIRSA), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Bank;

   The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines (GALVmed), the Hashemite Fund, the International Horse Sports Confederation, the PEW Charitable Trusts, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Royal Veterinary College, the St Jude Children's Hospital and the World Horse Welfare;

   for their voluntary contributions or subsidies to support the execution of the programmes of the OIE in 2017.

2. Albania, Argentina, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, China (People's Rep. of), Fiji, Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia, Georgia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Korea (Rep of), Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Moldavia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Namibia, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Russia, Rwanda, Slovenia, South Africa, Swaziland, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Uzbekistan and Zambia;

   for their contribution to the organisation of OIE Regional Conferences, seminars and workshops that were held during 2017.

3. Argentina, Brazil, Canada, France, Italy, Korea (Rep of), Norway, United Kingdom 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 2017.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)
RESOLUTION No. 5

Modification of the 2018 Budget

In accordance with Article 15 of the Organic Statutes and Article 6 of the Organic Rules of the OIE,

Considering the variation in expenses and income for the 92nd Financial Year (1 January to 31 December 2018),

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To modify Resolution No. 6 of 26 May 2017 and replace paragraphs 1 and 2 of the said Resolution with the following paragraphs:

1. The budget of the 92nd Financial Year, corresponding to the period from 1 January to 31 December 2018, is set, on the basis of the following income and expenses, at an amount of EUR 12 637 000:

1.1. Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sections</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount EUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section 1</td>
<td>OIE Members’ contributions established according to the categories provided in Article 11 of the Organic Statutes of the OIE and in accordance with Article 14 of the Organic Rules of the OIE</td>
<td>9 554 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Extraordinary contributions</td>
<td>630 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sub-total Section 1</strong></td>
<td>10 184 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 2</td>
<td>Registration fees (General Session, conferences)</td>
<td>70 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Publication sales</td>
<td>30 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fees for evaluation of sanitary status applications</td>
<td>100 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>World Fund overheads</td>
<td>530 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Internal contributions</td>
<td>560 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other operating income</td>
<td>261 900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sub-total Section 2</strong></td>
<td>1 551 900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 3</td>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>50 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Extraordinary income</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recovery of subsidies</td>
<td>607 840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cancellation of provisions</td>
<td>243 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sub-total Section 3</strong></td>
<td>901 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>12 637 000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.2. Expenses

1.2.1 Expenses by budgetary section

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budgetary section</th>
<th>Amount EUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Purchases</td>
<td>246 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Outside services</td>
<td>3 915 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Taxes</td>
<td>17 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Staff costs</td>
<td>7 037 300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Administrative expenses and financial charges</td>
<td>215 900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Extraordinary expenses</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Depreciation and amortisation expenses</td>
<td>1 205 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>12 637 000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.2.2 Expenses by field of activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field of Activity</th>
<th>Amount EUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Assembly and Council</td>
<td>938 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. General Directorate and Administration</td>
<td>3 091 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Communication</td>
<td>462 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Animal Health Information</td>
<td>1 289 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Publications</td>
<td>595 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. International Standards and Science</td>
<td>2 966 300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Regional Activities</td>
<td>875 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Miscellaneous missions and meetings</td>
<td>250 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. General expenses</td>
<td>964 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Depreciation and amortisation expenses</td>
<td>1 205 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>12 637 000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)
RESOLUTION No. 6

OIE Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 93rd Financial Year
(1 January to 31 December 2019)

In accordance with Article 15 of the Organic Statutes and Article 6.h of the Organic Rules of the OIE,

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

That the budget for the 93rd Financial Year, corresponding to the period from 1 January to 31 December 2019, shall be set in terms of income and expenses at an amount of EUR 12 770 000, established as follows:

1. Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sections</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount EUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section 1</td>
<td>OIE Members' contributions established according to the categories provided in Article 11 of the Organic Statutes of the OIE and in accordance with Article 14 of the Organic Rules of the OIE</td>
<td>9 773 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Extraordinary contributions</td>
<td>621 550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sub-total Section 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>10 394 550</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 2</td>
<td>Registration fees (General Session, conferences)</td>
<td>70 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Publication sales</td>
<td>30 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fees for evaluation of sanitary status applications</td>
<td>100 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>World Fund overheads</td>
<td>530 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Internal contributions</td>
<td>578 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other operating income</td>
<td>175 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sub-total Section 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>1 483 000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 3</td>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>50 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Extraordinary income</td>
<td>1 350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recovery of subsidies</td>
<td>575 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cancellation of provisions</td>
<td>266 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sub-total Section 3</strong></td>
<td><strong>892 450</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>12 770 000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Expenses

2.1. Expenses by budgetary section

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budgetary section</th>
<th>Amount EUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Purchases</td>
<td>219 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Outside services</td>
<td>3 835 800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Taxes</td>
<td>17 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Staff costs</td>
<td>7 349 400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Administrative expenses and financial charges</td>
<td>185 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Extraordinary expenses</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Depreciation and amortisation expenses</td>
<td>1 163 600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>12 770 000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2. Expenses by field of activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field of Activity</th>
<th>Amount EUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Assembly and Council</td>
<td>938 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. General Directorate and Administration</td>
<td>3 133 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Communication</td>
<td>442 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Animal Health Information</td>
<td>1 295 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Publications</td>
<td>607 800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. International Standards and Science</td>
<td>3 119 900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Regional Activities</td>
<td>919 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Miscellaneous missions and meetings</td>
<td>261 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. General expenses</td>
<td>889 700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Depreciation and amortisation expenses</td>
<td>1 163 600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>12 770 000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)
RESOLUTION No. 7

Financial contributions from OIE Members for 2019

In accordance with Article 11 of the Organic Statutes and Article 14 of the Organic Rules,

CONSIDERING

The need to meet the budgetary expenses of the OIE for 2019,

Resolution No. 8 dated 1 June 2001 related to contributions by the Least Developed Countries (LDC),

Resolution No. 11 of 30 May 2014 creating two categories of extraordinary contributions,

Resolution No. 15 of 24 May 2018 related to taking an annual price index into account when calculating the annual contributions of OIE Members,

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

1) that the annual contributions from Members of the OIE be established for the 2019 Financial Year as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Annual total contribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st category</td>
<td>210 250 EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd category</td>
<td>168 200 EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd category</td>
<td>126 150 EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th category</td>
<td>84 100 EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th category</td>
<td>42 050 EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th category</td>
<td>25 230 EUR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

that the OIE will call for only 50% of the total contributions due, in accordance with the six-category scale, from the Members classified as LDCs (Least Developed Countries) by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

2) that Members, while retaining the choice of category in which they are registered, may if they wish opt for one of the two extraordinary categories for 2019, in which case, the Members concerned shall be exempt from their statutory contribution for the year in question.

The two extraordinary categories of contribution of a lump sum are as follows:

Category A: EUR 500 000 minimum

Category B: EUR 300 000 minimum

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2018
in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)
RESOLUTION No. 8

Planned Work Programme for 2018-2019

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 2018-2019 (86 SG/6-A), subject to prioritisation by the Council to ensure that expenditure remains within the allotted budget.

2) RECOMMENDS THAT

Members 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 Regular Budget and/or to the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, or any other form of support to OIE activities.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)
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 (2018) the appointment of Mr Didier Selles as External Auditor of OIE Accounts.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)
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 Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW),

That the Memorandum of Understanding between the OIE and the ICFAW was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 1 March 2018 (86 SG/19),

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

__________________

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2018)
RESOLUTION No. 12

Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

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 Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA),

That the Memorandum of Understanding between the OIE and the COMESA was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 1 March 2018 (86 SG/20),

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

___________

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2018)
RESOLUTION No. 13

Accession of Saint Lucia to the OIE

HAVING REGARD TO

Article 6 of the International Agreement,

The Organic Rules, particularly article 3 designating the organs in charge of the operation of the Organisation, and article 5 stating that the OIE is under the authority and the control of the Assembly,

The General Rules, particularly article 1 stating that the Assembly is the highest authority of the OIE and that its wishes shall be expressed by Resolutions, as well as article 50 stating that, except as elsewhere provided in the Organic Rules or in these General Rules, decisions shall be based on a simple majority,

Resolution No. 11 of 31 May 2013 establishing a procedure for the examination of applications for accession to the OIE, applicable only to membership applications received after 31 May 2013,

The application of 10 October 2017 sent by Saint Lucia,

CONSIDERING

The decision of the Council at its meeting held on 27 February 2018, which was expressed unanimously in favour of the accession of Saint Lucia to the OIE,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To accept the application for accession of Saint Lucia to become a Member of the OIE.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2018)
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 texts for the Terrestrial Manual:

   Glossary

   1.1.3. Transport of biological materials
   1.1.8. Principles of veterinary vaccine production
   2.1.1. Anthrax
   2.1.2. Aujeszky's disease (infection with Aujeszky's disease virus)
   2.1.9. Heartwater
   2.1.16. Q fever (vaccine section)
   2.1.17. Rabies (infection with rabies virus)

   With the amendments approved by the Assembly:

   Regarding Table 1. Test methods available for the diagnosis of rabies and their purpose:

   i) to delete the RIAD test [rabies immunoperoxidase antigen detection];
   ii) to delete the Sellers staining;
   iii) to downgrade the MIT [mouse inoculation test] from +++ to +;
   iv) to reinstate the ranking “not applicable” for the ELISA for the purpose “Individual animal freedom from infection prior to movement.

   Regarding the text of the chapter:

   i) to delete the RIAD;
   ii) to clarify that the ELISA is not applicable for testing for international movement of animals or trade.
2.1.19. Rinderpest (infection with rinderpest virus)
2.1.24. West Nile fever
2.2.5. Infestation with Aethina tumida (small hive beetle)
2.2.6. Infestation of honey bees with Tropilaelaps spp.
2.3.1. Avian chlamydiosis
2.3.2. Avian infectious bronchitis
2.3.7. Duck virus enteritis
2.3.11. Fowl typhoid and Pullorum disease
2.4.10. Enzootic bovine leukosis
2.4.14. Malignant catarrhal fever
2.4.15. Theileriosis
2.4.16. Trichomonosis
2.4.17. Animal trypanosomoses (including Tsetse-transmitted, but excluding surra and dourine)
2.5.2. Contagious equine metritis
2.5.4. Epizootic lymphangitis
2.5.11. Glanders and Melioidosis
2.7.4. Contagious agalactia
2.7.6. Enzootic abortion of ewes (Ovine chlamydiosis)
2.8.2. Atrophic rhinitis of swine
2.8.8. Swine vesicular disease
3.4. The role of official bodies in the international regulation of veterinary biologicals
3.7.2. Minimum requirements for the production and quality control of vaccines

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 22 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)
RESOLUTION No. 15

Taking an annual price index into account when calculating the annual contributions of OIE Members

HAVING REGARD TO

Article 11 of the Organic Statutes of the OIE establishing six (6) categories of annual contribution to cover the expenses required for the functioning of the Organisation,

Article 14 of the Organic Rules of the OIE defining the financial participations of OIE Members,

Article 5 of the Financial Regulations,

CONSIDERING

Resolution No. 8 of 1 June 2001 relating to the contributions from Least Developed Countries (LDCs),

The development of OIE activities and the need to ensure they can be funded by the Regular Budget, and

That the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) produces an annual consumer price index (“OECD-Total” CPI), which measures the general trend in prices, and that this indicator is expressed as an annual rate of increase,

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

That, each year, the Resolution relating to the financial contributions of OIE Members will take into account the annual Consumer Price Index (“OECD-Total” CPI) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) for the previous year, when calculating the financial contributions of OIE Members for the following year,

That this provision shall apply with effect from May 2018 (“OECD-Total” CPI for 2017 to be taken into account when calculating the contributions for 2019),

That this provision does not preclude other increases in the financial contributions of OIE Members necessary for the development of OIE activities,

That the OIE will call for only 50% of the total contributions due, in accordance with the six-category scale, from the Members classified as LDCs (Least Developed Countries) by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)
RESOLUTION No. 16

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 Commission 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 by the OIE Biological Standards Commission 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 reports 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 Infectious bursal disease
Infectious Bursal Disease Laboratory, Harbin Veterinary Research Institute (HVRI), Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), Harbin, CHINA (PEOPLE’S REP. OF)

OIE Reference Laboratory for Salmonellosis
Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency (APQA), Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA), Gimcheon-si, Gyeongsangbuk-do, KOREA (REP. OF)
OIE *Reference Laboratory for Chronic wasting disease*
Norwegian Veterinary Institute (NVI), Oslo, NORWAY

OIE *Reference Laboratory for Highly pathogenic avian influenza and low pathogenic avian influenza (poultry)*
Federal Centre for Animal Health (FGBI-ARRIAH), Vladimir, RUSSIA

OIE *Reference Laboratory for Newcastle disease*
Federal Centre for Animal Health (FGBI-ARRIAH), Vladimir, RUSSIA

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 22 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)
RESOLUTION No. 17

Suspension of OIE Reference Laboratory status for terrestrial animal diseases

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The principal mandate of an OIE Reference Laboratory is to function as a world reference centre of expertise on designated pathogens or diseases,

2. The network of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories constitutes the core of OIE’s scientific expertise and excellence; the on-going contribution of these institutes to the OIE work ensures, in particular, that the standards, guidelines and recommendations developed by the Specialist Commissions, adopted and published by the OIE are scientifically sound and up-to-date,

3. All OIE Reference Centre applications are assessed by the appropriate OIE Specialist Commission 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. All Reference Laboratory applications are endorsed by the OIE Council, and all applications endorsed by the Council are presented to the Assembly for approval,

5. The OIE has made significant investment and effort to bring increased rigour to the approval and maintenance of OIE Reference Laboratory status to ensure the highest standards of services to OIE Member Countries,

6. At the 79th General Session in May 2011, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 10 Modernisation of the Basic Texts. The Terms of Reference for OIE Reference Laboratories were amended to include the requirement to maintain a system of quality assurance. Since then, the importance and benefit of having a quality management system has been increasingly stressed by the Biological Standards Commission and the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, particularly for confidence in test results,

7. At the Third Global Conference of OIE Reference Centres, held in Seoul, Korea (Rep. of) in October 2014, a deadline for achieving accreditation to ISO 17025 or equivalent quality management system was set: 31 December 2017,

8. At the 85th General Session in May 2017, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 20 Procedures for the designation of OIE Reference Laboratories, which include as a performance criterion the necessity for OIE Reference Laboratories to be accredited to ISO 17025 or equivalent quality management system before the end of December 2017,

9. In accordance with these procedures, Reference Laboratories that did not meet the 31 December 2017 deadline for accreditation will be suspended with the possibility to be reinstated within 2 years should they achieve accreditation in that time. Laboratories that have still not achieved accreditation 2 years after suspension would have to re-apply for OIE Reference Laboratory status once accreditation is achieved,
10. The Biological Standards Commission, with the agreement of the Council and in consultation with the Delegate of the Member Country concerned, established a list of OIE Reference Laboratories that are not currently accredited to an appropriate quality management system as required by the Terms of Reference for OIE Reference Laboratories,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To suspend for a maximum of 2 years the OIE Reference Laboratory status of the following laboratories:

- **OIE Reference Laboratory for Avian mycoplasmosis** (Mycoplasma gallisepticum, M. synoviae)
  University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- **OIE Reference Laboratory for Bovine spongiform encephalopathy**
  Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria (INTA), Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA

- **OIE Reference Laboratory for Scrapie**
  Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria (INTA), Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA

- **OIE Reference Laboratory for Dourine**
  All-Russian Research Institute for Experimental Veterinary Medicine (VIEV), Moscow, RUSSIA

- **OIE Reference Laboratory for Echinococcosis**
  Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II, Rabat-Instituts, MOROCCO

- **OIE Reference Laboratory for Echinococcosis**
  University of Salford, Salford, UNITED KINGDOM

- **OIE Reference Laboratory for Equine rhinopneumonitis**
  All-Russian Research Institute for Experimental Veterinary Medicine (VIEV), Moscow, RUSSIA

- **OIE Reference Laboratory for Equine piroplasmosis**
  Washington State University, Pullman, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- **OIE Reference Laboratory for Enzootic bovine leukosis**
  Leipzig University, Leipzig, GERMANY

- **OIE Reference Laboratory for Equine influenza**
  Free University of Berlin, Berlin, GERMANY

- **OIE Reference Laboratory for Equine rhinopneumonitis**
  Free University of Berlin, Berlin, GERMANY

- **OIE Reference Laboratory for Infectious bursal disease (Gumboro disease)**
  Food Animal Health Research Program, Ohio State University, Wooster, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- **OIE Reference Laboratory for Marek’s disease**
  United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Avian Disease and Oncology Laboratory, East Lansing, Michigan, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OIE Reference Laboratory for New world screwworm (Cochliomyia hominivorax)
COPEG (Panama–US Commission for the Eradication and Prevention of NWS), Panama, PANAMA

OIE Reference Laboratory for Rabies
Changchun Veterinary Research Institute (CVRI), Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), Changchun, CHINA (PEOPLE'S REP. OF)

OIE Reference Laboratory for Swine streptococcosis
Nanjing Agricultural University, Nanjing, Jiangsu province, CHINA (PEOPLE'S REP. OF)

OIE Reference Laboratory for Transmissible gastroenteritis
Food Animal Health Research Program, Ohio State University, Wooster, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 22 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)
CONSIDERING THAT

1. At the 61st General Session in May 1993, the Assembly adopted a formal set of Mandates and Rules for OIE Collaborating Centres, and the Rules setting out the procedures for applications, designations, entitlements and obligations, which were included in the OIE’s Basic Texts,

2. At the 79th General Session in May 2011, the Assembly adopted new Terms of Reference and Internal Rules for OIE Reference Centres,

3. The scientific integrity and credibility of the OIE relies heavily on this network of over 50 OIE Collaborating Centres,

4. All OIE Collaborating Centre applications are assessed using standardised criteria by the relevant Specialist Commission and endorsed by the relevant Regional Commission and once approved by the Council, proposed to the Assembly for adoption,

5. The need for clear criteria and procedures for designation and de-listing OIE Collaborating Centres has been identified,

6. The Biological Standards Commission, in consultation with the three other OIE Specialist Commissions, identified six main topics, each with a number of specific focus areas (Annex 3 of Doc. 86 SG/12/CS2 A) of strategic interest to the OIE for future Collaborating Centre applicants,

7. Existing Collaborating Centres will be asked where their core activities and expertise lies within this list so that they can retain their designation, when relevant by forming a consortium with Centres having the same specialty in the same region with the aim of having within 2–3 years, only OIE Collaborating Centres for defined focus areas of strategic interest to the OIE, creating greater opportunities for collaboration and networking; and improving Collaborating Centre support offered to the OIE and its Member Countries,

8. The Biological Standards Commission developed these procedures in consultation with the three other OIE Specialist Commissions,

9. The procedures were appended to the report of the meeting of the Biological Standards Commission February 2018 meeting (Annex 4 of Document 86 SG/12/CS2 B),

10. The procedures have been endorsed by the OIE Council,

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

1. To adopt the procedures proposed in Annex 4 of Document 86 SG/12/CS2 B.
2. To request that the Biological Standards Commission and the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission implement these procedures when reviewing OIE Collaborating Centre applications and evaluating their performance.

3. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted text on the OIE website and to ensure that the document is kept up-to-date through periodic review by the relevant Specialist Commissions.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 22 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)
RESOLUTION No. 19

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 Assembly adopted Resolution No. XXIX endorsing the principle of validation and certification of diagnostic assays for 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 kit is taken by the Assembly,

2. The Resolution has established that “fitness for purpose” should be used as a criterion for validation,

3. The aim of the OIE procedure for registration of diagnostic kits is to produce a register of recognised kits for OIE Member Countries and for diagnostic kit manufacturers,

4. OIE Member Countries need kits that are known to be validated according to OIE criteria in order to improve the quality of kits and to enhance confidence in kits,

5. The OIE register of recognised diagnostic kits 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. According to the OIE Standard Operating Procedure, registration of the diagnostic kits included in the OIE Register has to be renewed every five years,

7. During the 74th General Session of the OIE, the Assembly 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 OIE procedure for registration of diagnostic kits and the recommendations of the OIE Biological Standards Commission and the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, the Director General renews for a period of five additional years the inclusion in the OIE Register of the following diagnostic kits certified by the OIE as validated as fit for purpose:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the diagnostic kit</th>
<th>Name of the Manufacturer</th>
<th>Fitness for purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avian Influenza Disease Antibody Test Kit</td>
<td>BioChek UK Ltd</td>
<td>Fit for serological diagnosis of type A avian influenza in chickens (specific to IgG in serum) and for the following purposes:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1. To demonstrate historical freedom from infection in a defined population (country/zone/compartment/herd);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. To demonstrate re-establishment of freedom after outbreaks in a defined population (country/zone/compartment/herd);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. To confirm diagnosis of suspect or clinical cases;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. To estimate prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis in non-vaccinated populations (surveys/herd health schemes/disease control);
5. To determine immune status in individual animals or populations (post-vaccination).

| Prionics®-Check WESTERN | Prionics AG | Fit for the post-mortem diagnosis of bovine spongiform encephalopathy in cattle and for the following purposes:
1. To confirm diagnosis of suspect or clinical cases (includes confirmation of a positive screening test);
2. To estimate prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis (surveys/herd health schemes/disease control, e.g. surveys, implementation of disease control measures) and to assist in the demonstration of the efficiency of control policies;
3. To confirm a non-negative test result obtained during active surveillance with a different type of test. |

| IQ 2000™ WSSV Detection and Prevention System | GeneReach Biotechnology Corporation | Fit for the diagnosis of white spot disease in crustaceans and for the following purposes:
1. To certify freedom from infection (<10 virions/sample) in individual animals or products for trade/movement purposes;
2. To confirm diagnosis of suspect or clinical cases (confirmation of a diagnosis by histopathology or clinical signs);
3. To estimate prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis (surveys/herd health schemes/disease control). |

| IQ Plus™ WSSV Kit with POCKIT System | GeneReach Biotechnology Corporation | Fit for the detection of white spot disease in target tissues (Shrimp tissue of ectodermal and mesodermal origin) of *Litopenaeus vannamei* and for the following purposes:
1. To certify freedom from infection (<10 virions/reaction) in individual animals or products for trade/movement purposes;
2. To confirm diagnosis of suspect or clinical cases (confirmation of a diagnosis by histopathology or clinical signs);
3. To estimate prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis (surveys/herd health schemes/disease control). |

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 22 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)
RESOLUTION No. 20

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’) 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 applications of institutes wishing to be approved as FAO-OIE Rinderpest Holding Facility are assessed by the FAO-OIE Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee (hereinafter ‘the Committee’),

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,

7. Resolution No. 25 (2015) by the OIE Member Countries at the 83rd General Session states that facilities approved for holding rinderpest virus containing material are subject to re-evaluation every 3 years,
THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To re-evaluate, jointly with the FAO, the five Rinderpest Holding Facilities that were designated in 2015 through the approval by the World Assembly of Delegates of Resolution No. 25, during the period 2018-2019, through a consistent review process considered adequate by the OIE and the FAO, under recommendations from the FAO-OIE Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee, and subject to on-site inspections whenever deemed necessary by the organisations.

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.


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. African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (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.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 22 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)
RESOLUTION No. 21

List of antimicrobial agents of veterinary importance

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Antimicrobial agent is defined in the Glossary of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code as “a naturally occurring, semi-synthetic or synthetic substance that exhibits antimicrobial activity (kill or inhibit the growth of micro-organisms) at concentrations attainable in vivo. Anthelmintics and substances classed as disinfectants or antiseptics are excluded from this definition”,

2. At the 74th General Session of the OIE in May 2006, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. XXXIII. This Resolution allowed the publication of a preliminary List of antimicrobial agents of veterinary importance based on the list compiled by the OIE from the answers received to the questionnaire sent to OIE Member Countries, and requested the OIE Director General to further refine the list and consider breaking it down into subcategories according to type of usage,

3. At the 75th General Session of the OIE in May 2007, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. XXVIII, which approved the List of antimicrobial agents of veterinary importance (OIE List) and mentioned that the OIE List will be regularly updated in accordance with new scientific information,

4. At the 81st General Session of the OIE in May 2013, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16 which approved the updated OIE List,

5. In 2015, the OIE List was updated by the OIE ad hoc Group on Antimicrobial Resistance the aim of which was to be consistent with the WHO List on Critically important antimicrobials for human medicine regarding the classification of antimicrobial agents and to specify, for some antimicrobial agents, the species for which they are currently used,

6. Revision of the recommendations of the OIE List was suggested by the OIE ad hoc Group on Antimicrobial Resistance and endorsed by the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases at its February 2018 meeting to be proposed for adoption to the World Assembly of Delegates during the 86th General Session,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the revised List of antimicrobial agents of veterinary importance presented as Appendix III of Annex 16 of the report of the meeting of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases, February 2018 (Doc. 86 SG/12/CS3 B).

2. To request the Director General to publish the adopted OIE List on the OIE website.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 22 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)
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 Members 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 Members 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 Members applying for evaluation of official recognition of disease status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,

4. 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 Members,

5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the OIE website,

6. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Members. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of 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 Members recognised as FMD free where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. of the Terrestrial Code:

Albania
Australia
Austria
Belarus
Belgium
Belize
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Brunei
Bulgaria
Canada
Chile
Costa Rica
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Dominican Republic
El Salvador
Estonia
Finland
Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia
France
Germany
Greece
Guatemala
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Hungary
Iceland
Indonesia
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Latvia
Lesotho
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malaysia
Mexico
Montenegro
New Caledonia
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Norway
Panama
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Romania
San Marino
Serbia
Singapore
Slovakia
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
The Netherlands
Ukraine
United Kingdom
United States of America
Vanuatu

32 Excluding Kosovo administered by the United Nations.
2. The Director General publish the following List of Members recognised as FMD free where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. of the Terrestrial Code:

Paraguay, Uruguay

3. The Director General publish the following List of Members having FMD free zones\(^\text{33}\) where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. 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;
one zone covering Zone 3b designated by the Delegate of Botswana in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2016;

**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;

\(^{33}\) For detailed information on the delimitation of zones of Members 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;

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 Members having FMD free zones where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. 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: one zone covering the territory of State of Rio Grande do Sul (documentation of September 1997);

one zone in State of Mato Grosso do Sul as designated by the Delegate of Brazil in documents addressed to the Director General in August 2010;

one extended zone designated by the Delegate of Brazil in a document addressed to the Director General in September 2017, composed of the States of Amapá, Roraima, Amazonas, Pará, Rondônia, Acre, Espírito Santo, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, Sergipe, Distrito Federal, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Paraná, São Paulo, Bahia, Tocantins, Alagoas, Ceará, Maranhão, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Piauí, Rio Grande do Norte, and parts of Mato Grosso do Sul;

Chinese Taipei: one zone covering Taiwan, Penghu and Matsu areas, as designated by the Delegate of Chinese Taipei in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2016;

one zone consisting of Kinmen County as designated by the Delegate of Chinese Taipei in a document addressed to the OIE Director General in September 2017;

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;

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;

34 For detailed information on the delimitation of zones of Members recognised as FMD free, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.

35 With the exclusion of the containment zone.
Kazakhstan: five separate zones designated by the Delegate of Kazakhstan in documents addressed to the Director General in August 2016 as follows:
- one zone consisting of Almaty region;
- one zone consisting of East Kazakhstan region;
- one zone including part of Kyzylorda region, northern part of South Kazakhstan region, northern and central parts of Zhambyl region;
- one zone including southern part of Kyzylorda region and south-western part of South Kazakhstan region;
- one zone including south-eastern part of South Kazakhstan region and southern part of Zhambyl region;

Turkey: one zone designated by the Delegate of Turkey in a document addressed to the Director General in November 2009.

AND

5. The Delegates of these Members shall immediately notify the OIE Headquarters if FMD occurs in their countries or free zones within their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 22 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)
RESOLUTION No. 23

Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Foot and Mouth Disease of Members

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, 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 Members 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 Members 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. 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 Members,

5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the OIE website,

6. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Members. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of the endorsement of Members’ 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 country subsequent to the time of endorsement of the official control programme for FMD,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Members with an endorsed official control programme for FMD, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. of the Terrestrial Code:

   - China (People's Rep. of)
   - Mongolia
   - Namibia
   - India
   - Morocco
   - Thailand

2. The Delegates of these Members shall notify the OIE Headquarters the occurrence of FMD in their countries or territories in accordance with Chapter 1.1. of the Terrestrial Code.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 22 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)
RESOLUTION No. 24

Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Members

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 Members 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 Members 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 Members applying for evaluation of official recognition of disease status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,

4. 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 Members,

5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the OIE website,

6. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Members. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of 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 Members recognised as CBPP free according to the provisions of Chapter 11.5. of the Terrestrial Code:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Argentina</th>
<th>France</th>
<th>Singapore</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>Swaziland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>New Caledonia</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. The Director General publish the following List of Members having a CBPP free zone\textsuperscript{36} according to the provisions of Chapter 11.5. of the Terrestrial Code:

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 October 2015.

AND

3. The Delegates of these Members shall immediately notify the OIE Headquarters if CBPP occurs in their countries or free zone within their territories.

\textsuperscript{36} For detailed information on the delimitation of the zone of the Member recognised as CBPP free, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.
RESOLUTION No. 25

Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia of Members

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 with 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 Members to follow to achieve endorsement of their official control programme for CBPP,

3. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified the financial implications for Members 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. 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 Members,

5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the OIE website,

6. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Members. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of the endorsement of Members’ 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 country subsequent to the time of endorsement of the official control programme for CBPP,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Members with an endorsed official control programme for CBPP, according to the provisions of Chapter 11.5. of the Terrestrial Code:

   Namibia.

2. The Delegate of this Member shall notify the OIE Headquarters the occurrence of CBPP in its country or territory in accordance with Chapter 1.1. of the Terrestrial Code.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 22 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)
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 Members 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 Members 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 Members 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. 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 Members,

5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the OIE website,

6. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Members. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of 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 Members recognised as having a negligible BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.4. of the Terrestrial Code:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Argentina</th>
<th>Australia</th>
<th>Austria</th>
<th>Belgium</th>
<th>Brazil</th>
<th>Bulgaria</th>
<th>Chile</th>
<th>Colombia</th>
<th>Costa Rica</th>
<th>Croatia</th>
<th>Cyprus</th>
<th>Czech Republic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>Latvia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Liechtenstein</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>Namibia</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>Peru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td></td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The Netherlands</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Poland | Portugal | Romania | Singapore | Slovakia | Slovenia | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | The Netherlands | United States of America |

86 GS/FR – PARIS, May 2018
2. The Director General publish the following List of Members recognised as having a controlled BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.4. of the Terrestrial Code:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Taipei</td>
<td>French</td>
<td>Greek</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. The Director General publish the following List of Members having zones\(^{37}\) 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;
- **United Kingdom:** two zones consisting of Northern Ireland and Scotland, as designated by the Delegate of the United Kingdom in documents addressed to the Director General respectively in September and October 2016.

4. The Director General publish the following List of Members having a zone\(^{6}\) recognised as having a controlled BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.4. of the Terrestrial Code:

- **United Kingdom:** a zone consisting of England and Wales as designated by the Delegate of the United Kingdom in documents addressed to the Director General in September and October 2016.

AND

5. The Delegates of these Members 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 22 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)

\(^{37}\) For detailed information on the delimitation of the zones of the Members recognised as having a negligible or controlled BSE risk, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.
RESOLUTION No. 27

Recognition of the African Horse Sickness Status of Members

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 Members 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 Members 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 Members applying for evaluation of official recognition of disease status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,

4. 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 Members,

5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the OIE website,

6. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Members. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of 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 Members recognised as AHS free according to the provisions of Chapter 12.1. of the Terrestrial Code:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Algeria</th>
<th>Czech Republic</th>
<th>Kuwait</th>
<th>Portugal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andorra</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>Liechtenstein</td>
<td>Romania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>Slovakia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>Slovenia</td>
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<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Macedonia</td>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>Spain</td>
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<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>New Caledonia</td>
<td>The Netherlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Tunisia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China (People's Rep. of)</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Taipei</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>Uruguay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>Korea (Rep. of)</td>
<td>Poland</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

86 GS/FR – PARIS, May 2018
AND

2. The Delegates of these Members 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 22 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)
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 Members 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 Members 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 Members applying for evaluation of official recognition of disease status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,

4. 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 Members,

5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the OIE website,

6. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Members. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of 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 Members recognised as PPR free according to the provisions of Chapter 14.7. of the Terrestrial Code:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Argentina</th>
<th>Australia</th>
<th>Austria</th>
<th>Belgium</th>
<th>Bolivia</th>
<th>Bosnia and Herzegovina</th>
<th>Botswana</th>
<th>Brazil</th>
<th>Canada</th>
<th>Chile</th>
<th>Chinese Taipei</th>
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<th>Cyprus</th>
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<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>Chinese Taipei</td>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lithuania | Luxembourg | Madagascar | Malta | Mauritius | Mexico | New Caledonia | New Zealand | Norway | Paraguay | Peru | The Netherlands | Philippines | Poland | Portugal | Romania | Singapore | Slovakia | Slovenia | South Africa | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | Thailand | United Kingdom | United States of America | Uruguay
2. The Director General publish the following List of Members having a PPR free zone\textsuperscript{38} according to the provisions of Chapter 14.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

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 Members shall immediately notify the OIE Headquarters if PPR occurs in their countries or free zone within their territories.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 22 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)

\[\text{---------}\]

\textsuperscript{38} For detailed information on the delimitation of the zone of the Member recognised as PPR free, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.
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 Members 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 Members 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 Members applying for evaluation of official recognition of disease status to meet part of the costs defrayed by the OIE in the evaluation process,

4. 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 Members,

5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the OIE website,

6. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegates of Members. The OIE is not responsible for publication and maintenance of 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 Members recognised as CSF free according to the provisions of Chapter 15.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Argentina</th>
<th>Denmark</th>
<th>Luxembourg</th>
<th>Slovakia</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>The Netherlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Liechtenstein</td>
<td>Romania</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. The Director General publish the following List of Members having CSF free zones\(^{39}\), 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;

one zone covering the States of Acre, Bahia, Espírito Santo, Goias, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Rondônia, São Paulo, Sergipe and Tocantins, Distrito Federal, and the municipalities of Guajará, Boca do Acre, South of the municipality of Canutama and Southwest of the municipality of Lábrea, in the State of Amazonas as designated by the Delegate of Brazil in a document addressed to the Director General in September 2015;

**Colombia:** one zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in a document addressed to the Director General in September 2015;

AND

3. The Delegates of these Members shall immediately notify the OIE Headquarters if CSF occurs in their countries or free zones within their territories.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 22 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)

\(^{39}\) For detailed information on the delimitation of the zones of the Members recognised as CSF free, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.
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 Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission 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 by the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission 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 Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission are published in the reports 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 aquatic animal diseases and add them to the list of OIE Reference Laboratories (available on the OIE web site):

**OIE Reference Laboratory for Infectious haematopoietic necrosis**  
Pacific Biological Station – Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory (PBS-AAHL), Fisheries & Oceans Canada, Nanaimo, British Columbia, CANADA

**OIE Reference Laboratory for Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia**  
Pacific Biological Station – Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory (PBS-AAHL), Fisheries & Oceans Canada, Nanaimo, British Columbia, CANADA

**OIE Reference Laboratory for Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease**  
National Cheng Kung University, Tainan City, CHINESE TAIPEI
OIE Reference Laboratory for Infectious haematopoietic necrosis
Animal and Plant Inspection and Quarantine Technical Centre, Shenzhen Exit & Entry Inspection and Quarantine Bureau, Shenzhen City, Guangdong Province, CHINA (PEOPLE’S REP. OF)

OIE Reference Laboratory for Koi herpesvirus disease
Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI), Federal Research Institute for Animal Health, Institute of Infectology, Insel Riems, GERMANY

OIE Reference Laboratory for Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia
Aquatic Animal Quarantine Laboratory, General Service Division, National Fishery Products Quality Management Service, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Busan, KOREA (REP. OF)

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 23 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)
RESOLUTION No. 31

Suspension of OIE Reference Laboratory status for aquatic animal diseases

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The principal mandate of an OIE Reference Laboratory is to function as a world reference centre of expertise on designated pathogens or diseases,

2. The network of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories constitutes the core of OIE’s scientific expertise and excellence; the on-going contribution of these institutes to the OIE work ensures, in particular, that the standards, guidelines and recommendations developed by the Specialist Commissions, adopted and published by the OIE are scientifically sound and up-to-date,

3. All OIE Reference Centre applications are assessed by the appropriate OIE Specialist Commission 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. All Reference Laboratory applications are endorsed by the OIE Council, and all applications endorsed by the Council are presented to the Assembly for approval,

5. The OIE has made significant investment and effort to bring increased rigour to the approval and maintenance of OIE Reference Laboratory status to ensure the highest standards of services to OIE Member Countries,

6. At the 79th General Session in May 2011, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 10 Modernisation of the Basic Texts. The Terms of Reference for OIE Reference Laboratories were amended to include the requirement to maintain a system of quality assurance. Since then, the importance and benefit of having a quality management system has been increasingly stressed by the Biological Standards Commission and the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, particularly for confidence in test results,

7. At the Third Global Conference of OIE Reference Centres, held in Seoul, Korea (Rep. of) in October 2014, a deadline for achieving accreditation to ISO 17025 or equivalent quality management system was set: 31 December 2017.

8. At the 85th General Session in May 2017, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 20 Procedures for the designation of OIE Reference Laboratories, which include as a performance criterion the necessity for OIE Reference Laboratories to be accredited to ISO 17025 or equivalent quality management system before the end of December 2017,

9. In accordance with these procedures, Reference Laboratories that did not meet the 31 December 2017 deadline for accreditation will be suspended with the possibility to be reinstated within two years should they achieve accreditation in that time. Laboratories that have still not achieved accreditation two years after suspension would have to re-apply for OIE Reference Laboratory status once accreditation is achieved,
10. The Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, with the agreement of the Council and in consultation with the Delegate of the Member Country concerned, established a list of OIE Reference Laboratories that are not currently accredited to an appropriate quality management system as required by the Terms of Reference for OIE Reference Laboratories,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To suspend for a maximum of 2 years the OIE Reference Laboratory status of the following laboratories:

OIE Reference Laboratory for Infection with Aphanomyces invadans (epizootic ulcerative syndrome)
Kasetsart University Campus, Bangkok, THAILAND

OIE Reference Laboratory for White tail disease
C. Abdul Hakeem College, Aquaculture Biotechnology Division, Vellore Dt. Tamil Nadu, INDIA

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 23 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)
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 revised chapters were sent to Member Countries for comment:
   - Chapter 2.2.8. White spot disease (Infection with white spot syndrome virus)
   - Chapter 2.3.1. Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis virus (Infection with epizootic haematopoietic necrosis virus)
   - Chapter 2.3.3. Infection with Gyrodactylus salaris
   - Chapter 2.3.5. Infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus (Infection with HPR-deleted or HPR0 infectious salmon anaemia virus)
   - Chapter 2.2.3. Infection with infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus
   - Chapter 2.2.1. Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the revised chapters for the eighth edition of the Aquatic Manual proposed in Annexes 23 to 28 of Document 86 SG/12/CS4 B in English, each text being authentic.

2. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted text in the on-line version of the Aquatic Manual with appropriate numbering and formatting.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 23 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)
CONSIDERING THAT

1. The Aquatic Animal Health Code (Aquatic Code), like the Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals, is an important contribution to the international harmonisation of sanitary standards related to aquatic animals and aquatic animal products;

2. The current content of the Aquatic Code is the result of modifications made by the World Assembly of Delegates during previous OIE General Sessions;

3. It is necessary to update the Aquatic Code in accordance with the recommendations of the February 2018 report of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Annexes 3 to 22 of Document 86 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 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 of Document 86 SG/12/CS4 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic.

2. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the Aquatic Code with appropriate numbering and formatting.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 23 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)
RESOLUTION No. 34

Amendments to the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The current content of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (the Terrestrial Code) is the result of modifications made by the World Assembly of Delegates at previous OIE General Sessions;

2. The necessity to update the Terrestrial Code in accordance with recommendations in the February 2018 report of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Document 86 SG/12/CS1 B), after consultation with the World Assembly of Delegates;

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the Terrestrial Code proposed in Annexes 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32 of Document 86 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 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17 and 19 of Document 86 SG/12/CS1 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic, with the following modifications:

2.1. In Annex 5 (Glossary)
   a) In definition for Compartment,
      add the word “susceptible” before “populations”.

2.2. In Annex 6 (Chapter 2.1.)
   a) In Article 2.1.1., the 1st paragraph,
      replace the word “degree” with “certain level” and replace the words “or infections” with “infections or infestations”.

2.3. In Annex 10 (Chapter 4.X.)
   a) In Article 4.X.6. , Point 2. b), the twelfth indent,
      replace the words “and age” with “age or physiological status”.
   b) In Article 4.X.11., the last paragraph,
      add the words “demonstrated by adequate surveillance,” after the words “in the absence of cases”.

2.4. In Annex 12 (Chapter 6.7.)
   a) In Article 6.7.3., the 1st paragraph,
      undelete “, environment” in the 1st sentence and delete the words “and the environment” in the 2nd sentence.
b) In Article 6.7.4., Point 3.,
replace reference to “Table 2” with “Table 1”.

c) In Article 6.7.4., Point 3. d),
delete “(the animal-immediate environment or the wider environment)”.

d) In Article 6.7.4., Point 4.,
replace reference to “Table 2” with “Table 1”.

e) In Article 6.7.5., Point 1. c),
replace reference to “Table 3” with “Table 2”.

2.5. In Annex 13 (Chapter 6.8.)
a) In Article 6.8.1., the 3rd paragraph,
replace the word “therapeutic” with “veterinary medical” and replace the word
“nontherapeutic” with “non veterinary medical”.

b) In Article 6.8.1bis.,
replace the word “therapeutic” with “veterinary medical” and replace the word
“nontherapeutic” with “non veterinary medical”.

c) In Article 6.8.3., Point 2. b),
replace the word “therapeutic” with “veterinary medical” and replace the word
“nontherapeutic” with “non veterinary medical”.

2.6. In Annex 15 (Chapter 6.X.)
a) In Article 6.X.1., the 5th paragraph,
replace the words “the prevention and management” with “the assessment,
prevention, management and communication”.

2.7. In Annex 17 (Chapter 7.1.)
a) In Article 7.1.3bis., Point 3),
delete the last sentence reading “To guide users, Competent Authorities should
collect all relevant data that can be used to set target values”.

2.8. In Annex 19 (Chapter 8.3.)
a) In Article 8.3.7., Point 5. c),
undelete the words “country or” and add “,” before the words “ and until
shipment”.

2.9. In Article 1.3.4., (Chapter 1.3.)
delete the seventh indent, Glanders, and add a new indent after “Infection with
African horse sickness virus” to read:
“ - Infection with Burkholderia mallei (Glanders)”.

3. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the Terrestrial Code with appropriate numbering and formatting.

______________________________
(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2018
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2018)
RESOLUTION No. 36

Implementation of OIE standards by OIE Member Countries:
state of play and specific capacity building needs

CONSIDERING

1. OIE international standards have the objective of improving animal health and welfare, and veterinary public health, worldwide, and taking into account the variable animal health situation of Member Countries, to facilitate safe international trade of live animals and animal products, while also avoiding unjustified sanitary barriers;

2. In addition to animal health and welfare, and veterinary public health, OIE international standards address the capability of Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services, which need to be supported by effective and transparent legislation, good governance and engagement with the private sector;

3. The Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) requires that members adopt sanitary measures that are non-discriminatory and based on OIE international standards; more restrictive measures should be justifiable, based on scientific evidence and risk assessment;

4. OIE Member Countries are aware of the importance of the OIE standards and their relevance to national obligations under the WTO SPS Agreement but there are still many instances where sanitary measures are not based on or consistent with OIE standards and this has a negative effect on trust between trading partners and on trade;

5. The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) contains provisions for expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, and sets out measures for effective cooperation between customs and other appropriate authorities, including Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services, in order that the responsibilities under and interactions between the SPS and TFA Agreements be effectively managed at the national or regional level;

6. While countries need to consider more systematically OIE international standards in their national legislation and decision making, they also need assurances that these standards are continuously relevant and fit for purpose. Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of OIE international standards is essential;

7. The Good Regulatory Practices, identified by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), should be used by the OIE and Member Countries to ensure that regulatory processes are effective, transparent and inclusive and provide sustainable results;

8. Lack of engagement between the public and the private sector is a challenge to the provision of health safeguards at national and international level. Resolution No. 39 adopted by the Assembly in May 2017, at the 85th General Session, promoted the establishment of Public-Private Partnerships to support the achievement of animal health and veterinary public health objectives;

9. The OIE seeks to improve the adoption and implementation of OIE international standards by all Member Countries.
THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE continue to advocate that national Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services improve implementation of the OIE international standards, as the foundation for improving animal health, animal welfare, and veterinary public health at the national, regional and international level;

2. The OIE develop an Observatory to monitor the implementation of its international standards, to increase transparency and to identify constraints and difficulties faced by Member Countries. The design of the Observatory should ensure an efficient and integrated collection, analysis and reporting of information on progress and challenges associated with implementation of OIE international standards by Member Countries in a manner that incentivises increasing harmonisation while maintaining anonymity of the Member Countries;

3. In addition to monitoring the implementation of the international standards, the Observatory should evaluate the relevance, feasibility and effectiveness of the standards to Member Countries, as a basis to develop a more strategic focus to the OIE standard setting and capacity building work programmes;

4. The OIE support Member Countries in the implementation of its international standards by providing guidance, organising training workshops and continuing to improve the Pathway for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS Pathway) and related tools;

5. The OIE, through the PVS Pathway, notably the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme, encourage the application of Good Regulatory Practices as defined by the OECD;

6. OIE Member Countries improve their participation in the OIE standard-setting process, in particular by carrying out effective multi-stakeholder coordination at the national and regional level;

7. OIE Member Countries commit to improve their implementation of the OIE standards and the key SPS Agreement principles of harmonisation, risk analysis, equivalence, regionalisation, transparency and non-discrimination;

8. OIE Member Countries should comply with their obligations to notify diseases and, for the purposes of trade, should use the OIE standards, including official OIE disease status;

9. OIE Member Countries support increased participation of officials who are responsible for setting sanitary measures and negotiating market access in OIE capacity building activities relevant to the international standards;

10. OIE Member Countries consider, on a voluntary basis and as relevant, requesting PVS Pathway missions, notably missions on Veterinary Legislation and PVS Follow-up missions to evaluate country progress in complying with OIE international standards and recommendations;

11. OIE Member Countries promote a greater responsibility of the private sector in the implementation of OIE international standards, in particular by facilitating the development of Public-Private Partnerships to provide more efficient and effective approaches to the management of animal health and welfare and veterinary public health.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2018 in view of an entry into force on 25 May 2018)
Recommendations

of
Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions
organised since 1 June 2017

Endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE
on 24 May 2018
14th Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East

Istanbul, Turkey, 2 to 6 October 2017

**Recommendation No. 1:** Sustainable strengthening of the epidemi-surveillance systems in Middle East Member Countries

**Recommendation No. 2:** Addressing Challenges in the Middle East at the Human-Animal Interface under the One Health Concept
Recommendation No. 1

Sustainable strengthening of the epidemio-surveillance systems in Middle East Member Countries

GIVEN THAT:

1. OIE Member Countries have a responsibility to comply with the OIE standards and guidelines on animal disease surveillance and reporting;

CONSIDERING THAT:

2. Based on the responses to the questionnaire, filled in by the Member Countries of the Middle East region for the preparation of the Technical Item of the Conference, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), foot and mouth disease (FMD), brucellosis and bluetongue are the main diseases for which Member Countries perform surveillance;

3. The Veterinary Authority is the main body responsible for performing surveillance in Member Countries, which is of vital importance to manage global animal disease risks given the Middle East is at a geographical "crossroads" between three continents;

4. The Veterinary Authority use the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) for information on countries' disease status;

5. Nine out of the 16 respondent Member Countries do not have an epidemiologist in their outbreak investigation teams, a situation that may adversely affect the quality of service provided and lead to the wrong decisions being taken by high officials;

6. Veterinary para-professionals have a major role in executing outbreak investigations;

7. The Veterinary Authority in the vast majority of Member Countries collaborates with other governmental agencies in the event of an outbreak, especially for diseases of public health importance such as brucellosis and infection with Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS CoV);

8. Half of the respondent Member Countries do not have a regular programme of capacity-building activities in the field of surveillance and outbreak investigations for relevant staff;

9. The main challenges faced by the epidemio-surveillance systems of the Member Countries are: shortage of field support staff, shortage of laboratory technical staff, budgetary constraints, insufficient level of capacity building and difficulty in obtaining diagnostic materials;

10. Training of relevant OIE National Focal Points and facilitating communication are the most requested actions the OIE could undertake to support building and improving the epidemio-surveillance systems in the Member Countries.
THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Member Countries define their duties, develop relevant legislation and undertake surveillance planning, applying the general and disease-specific provisions of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* when developing and implementing their epidemi-surveillance systems, especially the Chapters on Animal Health Surveillance, Infection with Avian Influenza Viruses, Infection with Foot and Mouth Disease Virus, Infection with *Brucella* spp., Infection with Bluetongue Virus, and Infection with *peste-des-petits ruminants* (PPR) virus;

2. Member Countries commit to enhancing surveillance, especially through better communication and collaboration between bordering countries, as well as in reporting disease occurrences;

3. Member Countries ensure they have the required number of suitably trained staff to perform epidemi-surveillance activities relevant to their animal health situation;

4. Member Countries nominate their relevant OIE National Focal Points, if not already undertaken, and ensure their participation in OIE capacity-building activities and any other training programme deemed necessary for the proper functioning of epidemi-surveillance systems;

5. Member Countries seek better understanding of surveillance and reporting challenges at field level, including incentives and disincentives to reporting by farmers, the private sector and private veterinarians, including the socio-economic impacts of response to disease;

6. Member Countries be actively involved in all relevant activities related to strengthening intersectoral collaboration, especially with regard to addressing zoonotic diseases;

7. Member Countries take advantage of the new proposed approaches of the PVS Pathway to better identify and address the challenges faced by their epidemi-surveillance systems including in advocacy for improved budgets, and relating to the surveillance and reporting chain of command;

8. Member Countries actively participate in existing initiatives, such as the OIE/FAO Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) and, when relevant, the Mediterranean Animal Health Network (REMESA), to strengthen the regional epidemiological network;

9. Member Countries take advantage of the veterinary education establishments in the Region, the network of OIE Collaborating Centres and other relevant academic institutes to help address continuing education needs in epidemiology and risk analysis, and also explore the opportunity of developing a regional epidemiological and risk analysis training centre;

AND THAT:

10. The OIE accelerate the modernisation of WAHIS (WAHIS +) to ensure the system remains a relevant tool for informing and analysing the animal health situation worldwide, including developing a longer term epidemi-surveillance analysis for presenting to its Members;

11. The OIE provide guidelines on the expected competencies of veterinary para-professionals involved in epidemi-surveillance activities;
12. The OIE continue to provide capacity-building activities for the benefit of relevant OIE National Focal Points;

13. The OIE secure funds, through exploring with interested partners and donors, to support the implementation of PVS Pathway missions and related activities in the Region;

14. The OIE, in collaboration with its partners, consider developing analysis of the economic and social costs of poor surveillance and delayed detection of animal diseases, including zoonoses, to promote advocacy to increase the budget allocations for improved surveillance activity.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 6 October 2017 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2018)
Recommendation No. 2

Addressing Challenges in the Middle East at the Human-Animal Interface under the One Health Concept

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. The One Health concept, which was initiated in the 2000s, recognises that the health of people is intimately connected to the health of animals and the environment;

2. The risks for pathogens to spread to new areas and evolve into new forms are growing stronger with globalisation, climate change and change in human behaviour;

3. Most of the newly emerging diseases are zoonotic in origin;

4. There is a lack of understanding on how the One Health Concept can be implemented at the global, regional and national level;

5. The OIE, FAO and WHO, under the Tripartite, have recently published a Commitment reconfirming their engagement to provide multi-sectoral collaborative leadership in addressing health challenges by maintaining the momentum the Tripartite has achieved in combating antimicrobial resistance (AMR), rabies, and zoonotic influenzas and in reinforcing collaboration across national public health, animal health and food safety systems;

6. As part of the International Health Regulations (IHR) Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (MEF), the WHO undertakes, at the request of countries, Joint External Evaluation (JEE) missions, during which three of the Technical Areas evaluated, namely AMR, zoonotic diseases and food safety, are considered as the ones most likely to require intersectoral collaboration at the human–animal interface, with other relevant partners of animal health and food safety, such as FAO;

7. The analysis of the JEE average score for these three Technical Areas obtained by 11 Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East indicates that, with the exception of two countries found to be in a state of critical challenge, the Region can generally be considered to be at the stage of establishing the One Health concept but not as yet having fully developed the required sustainable mechanisms to properly implement it;

8. The One Health concept, through collaboration with relevant stakeholders, has had a demonstrable impact on reducing the incidence of important zoonotic diseases, with examples in the region.

THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Member Countries pursue their engagement in the OIE PVS Pathway by requesting PVS Evaluation or PVS Evaluation Follow-up missions and other missions of this programme and ensure not only that the results of these missions are made available and used during IHR Self-Evaluation, JEE missions and all other IHR MEF-related activities, but that the Veterinary Services also actively participate in these activities;
2. Member Countries establish and make fully active, if they have not already done so, a National One Health Committee(s) or equivalent as a forum to address the challenges at the human-animal-environment interface, and also consider intersectoral training, simulations or exchanges as part of implementing the One Health approach in all relevant fields;

3. Member Countries request the WHO and OIE to undertake IHR/PVS National Bridging Workshops in the Middle East Region as a process to map, support and strengthen intersectoral collaboration at the human-animal-environment interface, in priority areas such as anti-microbial resistance, zoonotic diseases and animal production food safety;

4. Member Countries advocate and communicate on the One Health concept among all relevant national stakeholders, and especially veterinary and human medical students, practitioners and officials, the private sector and communities. This communication should support early detection and response to zoonotic diseases and issues (e.g. AMR) of public health interest, and Member Countries are encouraged to reflect the One Health concept in legislative, institutional and implementation frameworks;

AND THAT:

5. The OIE, in collaboration with FAO and WHO, communicate widely on the recent Tripartite Commitment Note and, through this renewed collaboration, ensure that future activities undertaken under the Tripartite collaboration, effectively support countries in strengthening the implementation of the One Health concept;

6. The OIE, in collaboration with WHO, strengthen connections between the PVS Pathway and the IHR MEF so to ensure that Veterinary Services are systematically considered as key actors and leading partners in global health security, supported by other key partners such as FAO as well as donors;

7. The OIE consider working with all its One Health partners to investigate the feasibility of establishing a Global One Health Awareness Week or similar to promote the important activities under the One Health approach;

8. The OIE continue training regional PVS experts and explore providing PVS Pathway training in the region, with the opportunity to develop new PVS experts, including as part of One Health capacity building, and include them in the relevant missions, pending a merit based selection process.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 6 October 2017 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2018)
30th Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania
Putrajaya, Malaysia, 20 to 24 November 2017

Recommendation No. 1: How to implement farm biosecurity: the role of government and private sector

Recommendation No. 2: Surveillance and risk mitigation measures for illegal and unregulated movement of animals across borders or through markets
Recommendation No. 1

How to implement farm biosecurity: the role of government and private sector

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. Farm biosecurity represents a suitable measure for public–private partnerships (PPP) given its potentially valuable contribution to the prevention and control of all diseases of livestock, with private sector benefits at both the individual and commercial farming level, as well as public sector benefits at the wider community, national and international levels;

2. Despite this potential, research indicates that in most rural sectors, livestock farmers generally have a poor understanding of biosecurity, the exception being some intensive commercial operations (mainly pigs, poultry and ruminant feed lots);

3. The implementation of biosecurity interventions suitable for livestock smallholders through to village-level practices, commercial operations, and via national or international programmes, is a complex process of education and behaviour change aimed at empowering people to make better personal and collective decisions that mitigate disease risks;

4. Biosecurity interventions need alignment with the motivations of all involved in the supply chain of livestock production, preferably offering clear short-term risk management benefits that elicit interest, investment and application;

5. As the practices of the commercial sector demonstrate, and public–private partnerships offer, the linking of biosecurity and disease control with improved livestock productivity and financial outcomes is important as it provides opportunities for sustainable improvements in livelihoods and economic development and more effective control and eradication strategies for foot and mouth disease (FMD) and other diseases;

6. Comprehensive farm biosecurity comprises a package of preventive measures and vaccination should not be a disincentive to engage in other necessary elements such as farm hygiene, quarantine, or feed and water safety given the general protection these measures provide;

7. Based on the response to the questionnaire provided to the Delegates of the Asia, the Far East and Oceania region for preparing this Technical Item, the use of systemic antibiotics for FMD cases appears common in the region and such practice is not recommended for viral diseases, unless there is evidence of secondary bacterial infection;

8. Based on the response to the questionnaire, livestock trader engagement is considered challenging, but an important area of work for achieving effective biosecurity in most Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania;

9. Based on the response to the questionnaire, the role of government in livestock farm biosecurity is variable in Member Countries of the Asia, the Far East, and Oceania region, presumably reflecting the variations in legislation, availability of resources, including field Veterinary Services, and priorities of livestock farming to the economies and social fabric of individual countries;
10. Based on the response to the questionnaire, the role of the private sector in livestock biosecurity is stronger in the developed Member Countries of the region and those with large intensive pig and/or poultry industries;

11. Based on the response to the questionnaire, public-private partnerships for on-farm biosecurity were reported by the majority of the Member Countries in the region; and

12. Based on the response to the questionnaire, the majority of the Member Countries in the region indicated they were satisfied with the current OIE involvement in on-farm biosecurity, but would be open to more support from the OIE.

THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Member Country Veterinary Authorities, in collaboration with interested parties including from the private sector, explore the further development of systems/activities/programmes/training aimed at aligning farm biosecurity interventions with the motivations of all involved in the supply chain of livestock production, preferably offering clear and simple risk management measures that offer immediate and sustained benefits and protect and increase productivity and improve livelihoods;

2. Member Country Veterinary Authorities develop promotional messages on such biosecurity measures that could include, among others: improved hygiene, routine quarantine of new introductions, isolation of sick animals, identifying and applying options for managing the high risks of communal grazing and sale of non-vaccinated animals, managing the risks of feeding uncooked food scraps to pigs, promoting the importance of keeping accurate records of animal health events, and ensuring wild birds do not have access to water or feed used for commercial poultry;

3. Member Country Veterinary Authorities discourage the use of systemic antibiotics for FMD cases since it is ineffective, and due to the concerns of emergence of antimicrobial resistance;

4. Member Countries’ Veterinary Authorities encourage the establishment of a Collaborating Centre on biosecurity, with a focus on farm biosecurity, which could provide and coordinate capacity-building activities on biosecurity to Member Countries;

5. Member Countries’ Veterinary Authorities assess and share lessons learned and best practices on farm biosecurity, including the use of public–private partnership mechanisms, and including activities targeting aquatic animals and apiculture;

6. The OIE include references to farm biosecurity in the development of the competencies and model core curriculum for veterinary para-professionals;

7. The OIE develop further guidance on biosecurity at the farm level aligned with the relevant sections of both Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes, including for apiculture, and consider the development of templates for farm biosecurity planning in collaboration with relevant partners such as FAO; and

8. The OIE identify relevant experts that could be made available to Member Countries to work on developing resources and training capacity for farm biosecurity, such as through a train-the-trainer mechanism.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 24 November 2017 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2018)
Recommendation N°2

Surveillance and risk mitigation measures for illegal and unregulated movement of animals across borders or through markets

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. There has been a marked rise in demand for poultry meat, beef, lamb, pork, and aquatic animal products in recent years, due to the increasing population, continued economic development and the transition towards a more meat-rich diet in the Asia, the Far East and Oceania region;

2. Animal movements are considered a major factor in the transmission of transboundary animal diseases, including some important diseases that pose a threat to the livestock, poultry, and aquatic animal industries;

3. The distribution and spread of transboundary animal diseases in the region are a reflection of the market-driven movement of animals;

4. Illegal or unregulated movements of animals between or within countries have been reported in several countries of the region;

5. Livestock and poultry markets continue to be important components in the movement pathways of animals across the region;

6. Water ways, and particularly rivers, can be a source of transboundary animal diseases' spreads (e.g. African swine fever), such as through the dumping of infected carcases;

7. Surveillance is essential to prevent diseases entering and moving along the livestock and poultry market chain, whereas the shortage of funding and the lack of coverage of the field animal health network, well-equipped laboratories, experienced and skilled staff, and reliable and affordable reagents are constant constraints on surveillance activities in some countries of the region; and

8. The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, in Section 4 on disease prevention and control, Section 5 on trade measures, import/export procedures and veterinary certification and in disease-specific chapters, and the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code, in the corresponding Sections 4 and 5 and in disease-specific chapters, provide recommendations including mitigating measures to be implemented by OIE Members for the safe trade of animals and products of animal origin.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Members of the Asia, the Far East and Oceania region affected by illegal and unregulated movement of animals take joint actions aimed at better exchanging information on disease status, monitoring animal movements, identifying current and new movement routes and establishing movement protocols including joint check points and strategies to mitigate illegal movements;
2. Members of the region strengthen and implement their legislation on animal movements to reduce the risk of transboundary animal diseases being spread through movement of animals;

3. Members of the region establish buffer zones along borders where there is a known potential for animal movements;

4. Members of the region consider, bilaterally or multilaterally, and in collaboration with livestock and poultry dealers and traders, the establishment of orderly and efficient official pathways and risk-based cross-border protocols for animal movements, that would benefit livestock, poultry, and aquatic animal product traders, dealers, and producers (through safe but cost-effective transboundary movements); as well as governments (through reduced costs of disease control);

5. Members of the region apply for OIE official recognition of country or zone disease-free status or formally self-declare disease free status as appropriate;

6. Members of the region make their import/export regulations and protocols readily accessible to all stakeholders, including providing relevant contact details;

7. Members of the region ensure they have strong animal disease surveillance in place supported by adequate field animal health networks and laboratory capacity allowing for proper certification of animals destined for trade;

8. Members of the region improve their animal identification and traceability systems and consider how such systems can contribute to safer cross border animal movements, including through identifying vaccination status and minimising illegal movements;

9. Members of the region ensure that livestock and poultry markets and border checkpoints be provided with experienced veterinarians and/or veterinary paraprofessionals trained to perform inspection activity and respond to (or refer as appropriate) disease detections;

10. Members of the region establish cross-sectoral relationships with their national authorities in fields such as Customs, Border Police, and the Military to ensure there is cross-sectoral awareness of the risks and referral, with appropriate penalties, to minimise the risk of illegal or unregulated cross border animal movement;

11. Members of the region take advantage of the OIE PVS Pathway to evaluate and monitor their compliance with OIE standards, including those relevant to the movement of animals;

12. Members of the Region address risks of transboundary animal diseases’ spread by water ways, such as from illegal dumping of contaminated carcases;

13. The OIE encourage through its Reference Laboratories, the undertaking of inter-laboratory proficiency testing to make sure that laboratory diagnostic results are reliable;

14. The OIE continue to develop guidelines, recommendations and standards to support its Members in mitigating the risk of animal disease transmission through the movement of animals;
15. The OIE continue to provide training to its Members on the OIE official disease status recognition procedures; and

16. The OIE continue to support its Members in their efforts to monitor their compliance with OIE standards, including for transboundary animal movements, by providing PVS Pathway missions and related support.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 24 November 2017 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2018)
Reports

of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions
held during the 86th General Session

Paris, 21 May 2018
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.
PARIS, May 2018

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 21 May 2018 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 103 participants, including Delegates and observers from 36 Members of the Commission, 5 observer countries, and representatives from 8 international or regional organisations:


Observer countries: Belgium, Canada, France, Italy and the United Kingdom.

International/regional organisations: AVSF40, AU-IBAR, CEMAC41, IGAD42, EISMV43, FAO, WTO, and WAEMU44.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Komla Batasse Batawui (Togo), President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane (South Africa), President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, and seconded by Dr Karim Tounkara, OIE Regional Representative for Africa.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

2. Organisation of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2019

Unfortunately, the Delegate of Cameroon could not attend the meeting and therefore, was not in the position to officially confirm his country as host of the forthcoming Regional Conference.

Dr Malek Zrelli, OIE Delegate of Tunisia, proposed that his country hold this important regional event and invited all Delegates to attend the conference to be held in February 2019.

This proposal was unanimously approved by the Regional Commission.

40 AVSF: Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières
41 CEMAC: Communauté économique et monétaire de l’Afrique centrale
42 IGAD: Intergovernmental Authority on Development
43 EISMV: École Inter-États des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires de Dakar
44 WAEMU: West African Economic and Monetary Union
3. Update on the Regional Roadmaps for FMD (PCP) in Africa

On behalf of the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Working Group of the FAO/OIE Global Framework for the control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), Dr Laure Weber-Vintzel, Head of the OIE Status Department and co-chair of the FMD Working Group, updated the Regional Commission for Africa on the FMD Roadmaps conducted in Africa to date and those planned in 2018. She briefly outlined the principles of the Global FMD Control Strategy and the division of Africa into five sub-regions (North Africa, East Africa, West Africa, Central Africa and Southern Africa) based on the FMD virus pools. She presented the FMD regional situation as assessed against the Progressive Control Pathway (PCP) for FMD, as well as the progress made in those sub-regions that had hosted two roadmap meetings.

She described the various tools provided by the FMD Working Group to support countries willing to control FMD, including FAO/OIE Guidelines for vaccination and post-vaccination monitoring and templates for developing national FMD control plans. She explained the challenges identified in implementing the Global FMD Control Strategy at the global level, as well as in Africa, and some of the activities planned by the FMD Working Group to address these challenges and gaps.

4. Preliminary conclusions of the Public Private Progress initiative

Dr Isabelle Dieuzy-Labaye, Senior Advisor, Public-Private Partnerships, and Dr Marisa Peyre, Epidemiologist, Deputy Head of the CIRAD-ASTRE Research Unit provided details on the Public Private Progress initiative, led by the OIE with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and in collaboration with CIRAD.

During their presentation they highlighted that:

- The initiative aimed to support countries in their use of public-private partnerships (PPPs) to strengthen the capacities of national Veterinary Services. This is in line with the recommendations outlined in Resolution no. 39 on PPPs adopted at the 85th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates.

- The first step of this three-year initiative (November 2016-2019) included the development and analysis of an online survey targeting OIE Delegates and representatives from the animal health private sector worldwide. The results identified three clusters of PPPs in animal health. Key success factors and obstacles in establishing and maintaining PPPs were also surveyed, as well as participants’ expectations for the OIE to assist in the promotion and development of PPPs in Veterinary Services.

- The three PPP clusters in the field of Veterinary Services are distinguished by the type of private partners involved and the type of relationship and partnership governance established with the public sector. Thus, the first cluster focuses on the delegation of Veterinary Service activities to private veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals. The second cluster includes producers’ associations having developed regular collaboration with public Veterinary Services. The third PPP cluster involves private local or multinational companies.

- Based on best practices identified, the OIE now intends to produce guidelines to support the development of impactful and sustainable partnerships between the public and private sectors aimed at improving the performance of national Veterinary Services worldwide.
5. **Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa**

The President of the Regional Commission presented to Delegates a proposal from the Members of the Bureau and the Council regarding the technical item for inclusion in the agenda of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa as follows:

– Veterinary paraprofessionals: their governance and role in improving animal health and welfare in Africa

He then proposed to Delegates of the region that Technical Item I (with a questionnaire to Members), “PVS Pathway as an advocacy tool for increased investment in Veterinary Services in Africa”, which had already been selected at the Regional Commission meeting during the last General Session in May 2017, be changed with Technical Item II (without questionnaire), proposed today in order to provide participants with the opportunity to debate the topic of veterinary paraprofessionals with the support of a questionnaire.

The proposal was endorsed unanimously by the Regional Commission.

Thus, Technical Items for the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa will be as follows:

Technical Item I (with questionnaire): “Veterinary paraprofessionals: their governance and role in improving animal health and welfare in Africa”.

Technical Item II (without questionnaire): “PVS Pathway as an advocacy tool for increased investment in Veterinary Services in Africa”.

6. **Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2020**

The Regional Commission suggested the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates:

– The role of veterinarians in combating threats posed to public health and food security by emerging and re-emerging diseases and pests

7. **Recent progress on the OIE’s work with Veterinary Education Establishments (VEE) and Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSB) in Africa**

Dr Patrick Bastiaensen, Programme Officer at the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa reported on recent progress with VEEs and VSBs in Africa.

During the presentation he highlighted the following:

– The new status adopted by the Mediterranean Network of Establishments for Veterinary Education (REEV-Med for its acronym in French), which expands its mission and clarifies and simplifies its procedures and management. REEV-Med will focus its efforts on promoting the importance of close cooperation between veterinarians in the Mediterranean region for addressing veterinary public health and animal health challenges. They will therefore work on building trust between faculties and on facilitating student exchanges, as well as on implementing joint research activities. REEV-Med also explores cooperation initiatives targeting the Mediterranean basin (such as ERASMUS+ and PRIMA) and encourages faculties to collaborate within the “One Health” framework.
The network of Deans of Eastern and Southern Africa Veterinary Educational Establishments (ESAVEE) met for the sixth time in Lusaka (Zambia) in June 2017. The meeting was hosted by the University of Zambia (UNZA) with the financial support of the OIE. For the first time, a REEV-Med representative attended the meeting, providing an opportunity for the two networks to share past experiences, lessons learned and future directions. The meeting also took decisive steps towards sustaining the network’s activities after the OIE withdraws its co-funding for the annual meeting, which it has supported since the meetings began in 2011.

The meeting of VSBs in the Southern Africa region (with observers and facilitators from East Africa), which was supported by the OIE and was held in Johannesburg (South Africa) in November 2017. It was attended by some 45 representatives from VSBs in Southern African Development Community (SADC) Member States, where they existed, or else from the government departments that register veterinarians and/or veterinary paraprofessionals (animal health technicians, meat inspectors, nurses, veterinary laboratory technicians). The overall aim was to establish a region-wide network of VSBs able to simplify and facilitate the recognition, registration and licensing of veterinary professionals throughout the region. At the end of the meeting, an electronic OIE Veterinary Statutory Boards Southern Africa Forum was established, using simple and affordable tools such as a Facebook group, Skype conference calls and a shared Dropbox folder. The working group that was established at the same time is currently looking to: review applicable legislation and regulations in light of the OIE day-one competencies and the OIE model core curriculum; and to share procedures, policies, reports and all other applicable information and best practices on the use of the Competencies of graduating veterinarians ('Day 1 graduates') in countries, rules for veterinary and veterinary paraprofessionals which include scopes of practice and minimum standards for facilities (registration, authorisation), minimum standards of training, criteria for the evaluation of training institutions and continuing professional development. The process is driven by the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC), which has been assigned the role of champion and ensures that positive interventions take place.

The first OIE Twinning agreement between VSBs in Africa, officially launched on 20 April 2018 at an inaugural coordination meeting between SAVC and the Veterinary Council of Tanzania (VCT) at SAVC offices in Pretoria (South Africa). The Twinning arrangement between these two VSBs will last for 18 months. The next scheduled meeting of the Twinning partners will take place in July 2018, again in Pretoria, and aims to produce a joint training needs assessment for the last year.

Outcomes of the OIE Sub-Regional Seminar on rabies in Southern Africa, held in Windhoek, Namibia, from 10 to 12 April 2018 and OIE involvement towards global elimination of rabies in Africa

Dr Moetapele Letshwenyo, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Southern Africa, presented the outcomes of the OIE Sub-Regional Seminar on rabies in Southern Africa, held in Windhoek (Namibia) from 10 to 12 April 2018, and OIE involvement towards global elimination of rabies in Africa. The Sub-Regional Seminar was organised by the OIE in collaboration with the Government of Namibia under the sponsorship of the project “Technical support for Namibia in eliminating rabies in dogs”, financed by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to assist the Government of Namibia in controlling dog-mediated human rabies, especially in the Northern Communal Areas. The project is managed by the OIE, with technical assistance from the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, an OIE Reference Laboratory for rabies in Germany.
The key outcome was a set of recommendations to various stakeholders summarised as follows:

**Member Countries** should establish functional high-level One Health (multisectoral) rabies elimination steering committees as oversight bodies at national and sub-national levels. One of the tasks of these committees should be to oversee the development of national multisectoral rabies elimination plans, which clearly outline (with timelines and resource allocations) the activities designed to eliminate dog-mediated human rabies by 2030.

**The SADC Secretariat** was encouraged to take the leadership (coordination) role for the elimination of dog-mediated human rabies in the region and to prioritise dog-mediated human rabies as a ‘primary zoonotic disease’ for elimination from the region by 2030, using the One Health approach.

**The African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)**, with its continental mandate, should support the SADC Secretariat and Member Countries in coordinating dog-mediated human rabies elimination, by mobilising donor support, and in facilitating inter-regional collaboration in the effort to eliminate rabies.

**Development partners** should continue to support Member Countries at national and regional levels in order to control and eventually eliminate dog-mediated human rabies from the region, by contributing resources and building capacity.

Specifically, **the OIE** should continue to develop scientific standards and guidelines to facilitate the elimination of dog-mediated rabies, including considerations for the development of a procedure for the endorsement of an official control programme for dog-mediated rabies elimination, and it should enhance the procedure for the self-declaration of dog-mediated rabies freedom. The OIE should also continue to provide/maintain a dog rabies vaccine bank.

**The World Health Organization (WHO)** should continue to develop and disseminate science-based WHO guidelines that facilitate the prevention, control and elimination of dog-mediated rabies, and should further develop validation procedures for the elimination of dog-mediated rabies as a public health problem. WHO should advocate for readily available rabies biologicals for the most vulnerable communities and, through its Country Offices, should actively support member countries to prioritise dog-mediated human rabies as a ‘primary zoonotic disease’ for elimination by 2030.

**FAO**, in collaboration with the OIE, should assist SADC member countries in developing the regional pathway towards rabies elimination and in implementing this regional roadmap (similar to that developed for foot and mouth disease and peste des petits ruminants), and should assist countries in rabies rapid-response missions following outbreaks (Crisis Management Centre for Animal Health [CMC-AH]) missions, technical cooperation projects, among others).

9. **Update on the Regional Roadmaps for PPR (GEP, PMAT) in Africa**

Dr Jean-Jacques Soula, OIE Coordinator of the joint FAO-OIE Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) Secretariat, began his presentation by pointing out that the PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR GEP) had been launched by FAO and OIE in October 2016, in line with the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (PPR GCES). It constitutes the first step towards eradication by 2030, which will make a major contribution to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
The four components of PPR GEP were presented to the OIE Regional Commission for Africa last year, at the 85th General Session of the World Assembly of National Delegates on 22 May 2017.

Dr Soula described the main achievements of PPR GEP implementation since then, including: the start of a second round of PPR regional roadmap meetings (five of the nine regions are in Africa); the launch of a PPR Advisory Committee and a PPR Global Research and Expertise Network; and the thermotolerant PPR vaccines workshop. He added that the countries had been supported in drafting their PPR National Strategic Plans, in line with the PPR GCES and with the Pan-African strategy and programme for the control and eradication of PPR.

These steps were facilitated by the support of AU-IBAR and the African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (PANVAC).

He added that FAO and the OIE had endorsed a PPR resource mobilization and marketing strategy to facilitate fund-raising. To this end, a social media campaign was launched by FAO and the OIE in December 2017 and the two videos on PPR eradication were shown.

Dr Soula announced that FAO and the OIE would organize a global conference on “Partnering and investing for a PPR-free world”. This high-level event will take place in Brussels (Belgium) on 6-7 September 2018, hosted by the European Commission. The objectives are to: reaffirm international political commitment to globally eradicate PPR by 2030; provide a forum for governments to confirm their political commitment; and obtain commitment and support from resource partners.

He concluded by mentioning the OIE dedicated tool linking the PVS Pathway with PPR GEP and the procedures for official recognition of PPR free status and for endorsement of national official control programmes for PPR.

**Discussions**

The issues raised by the Delegates on the various technical topics in the agenda were discussed and clarified as follows:

- Regarding FMD, not many Roadmaps meetings were organised for Western Africa countries because the disease was not considered as a priority in the sub-region. Therefore, it was difficult to get donor funding supporting the planning of any FMD-related activity in the sub-region.

- When it comes to the serotype O identified in Africa and the way it could affect the FMD pool in the region, it was mentioned that, although globalisation influences long distance spread of this serotype, so far, no changes in the virus pool categories were foreseen.

- Regarding possibilities to establish Veterinary Education Establishments (VEE) and Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSB) networks in Africa, it was underlined that current initiatives had been triggered by countries’ demand and thus, it was up to them to show interest and request joining such networks. It was also reminded that guidelines were available for all countries on this matter and they were encouraged to read them and to ask any support, if needed.

- Regarding rabies, it was reminded that the Global Strategic Plan to Prevent Human Death from Dog transmitted Rabies by 2030, launched in September 2017, would soon be published.
Regarding PPR control strategy, all African countries currently either have an endorsed plan by the OIE and FAO, or have already drafted their plan with the contribution of AU-IBAR.

10. Election Procedure for the Council, the Regional Commissions and the Specialist Commissions

Mr Rodney de Souza, Head of the OIE Strategic Partnerships and Legal Affairs Unit, presented the main aspects of the election process. He pointed out that the 86th General Session provided an opportunity to elect members of the Council, the Bureaux of the Regional Commissions and Specialist Commissions, in application of the new candidate evaluation procedure adopted last year. Drs Karin Schwabenbauer and Kamal Tag El Sir El Sheikh, both Council members, were appointed as members of the Credentials Committee and as scrutineers during the elections to take place on Friday 25 May.

The plan was for the elections to each governing body to be held electronically, sequentially, and position by position. This would allow the Assembly, if necessary, to agree on a different method, depending on the number of applications and the configuration of the election.

Each Regional Commission was invited to announce its nominations for the new Bureau and the Council on the evening of the conference (Monday, 21 May 2018), together with the final list of selected candidates for the Specialist Commissions.

11. Proposal of candidates for the elections (Closed session)

Council:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr Komla Batassé Batawui (Togo)

Bureau of the Regional Commission:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

President: Dr Honoré Robert N’lemba Mabela (Democratic Republic of Congo)
Vice-President: Dr Malek Zrelli (Tunisia)
Vice-President: Dr Lethlhogile Modisa (Botswana)
Secretary General: Dr Mbargou Lo (Senegal)

Specialist Commissions:

Following the discussion during the meeting of the Regional Commission, in agreement with the Delegate of their respective country, some candidates from the Region were removed from the “List of Candidates Eligible for Nominations for Election to the Specialist Commissions”. The candidates removed from the list will not be proposed for election on Friday 25 May. The candidates below mentioned will be proposed for election on Friday 25 May.

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Salah Hammami (Tunisia)
Dr Babiker Abbas (Sudan)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr Kevin William Christison (South Africa)
**Biological Standards Commission**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

- Dr Mehdi El Harrak (Morocco)
- Dr Emmanuel Couacy-Hymann (Côte-d'Ivoire)

**Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

- Dr Baptiste Kimbenga Dungu (South Africa)
- Dr Misheck Mulumba (Zambia)

The meeting officially ended at 6:10 p.m.

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.../Appendix
Appendix

MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Paris, 21 May 2018

Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Organisation of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2019
3. Update on the Regional Roadmaps for FMD (PCP) in Africa
4. Preliminary conclusions of the Public Private Progress initiative
5. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa
6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2020
7. Recent progress on the OIE’s work with Veterinary Education Establishments (VEE) and Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSB) in Africa
8. Outcomes of the OIE Sub-Regional Seminar on rabies in Southern Africa, held in Windhoek, Namibia, from 10 to 12 April 2018 and OIE involvement towards global elimination of rabies in Africa
9. Update on the Regional Roadmaps for PPR (GEP, PMAT) in Africa
10. Election Procedure for the Council, the Regional Commissions and the Specialist Commissions
11. Proposal of candidates for the elections (Closed session)
The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas met on 21 May 2018 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 108 participants, including Delegates and observers from 27 Members of the Commission and representatives from 15 International or Regional Organisations:

Members of the Commission: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Curacao, Dominican Rep., Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, United States of America, and Uruguay.

Observer countries: United Kingdom and Saint Lucia.


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.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted unanimously as described in the Appendix.

Dr Jorge Bonino, representative of FARM, requested the Commission to provide more details regarding the recent FMD events in Colombia and Venezuela. The President while apologizing indicated that, due to time constraints, it was not possible to address this topic during the meeting.

45 AAVLD: American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians
46 ALA: Latin American Poultry Association
47 CARICOM: Caribbean Community
48 FARM: Federation of Rural Associations of MERCOSUR
49 IEC: International Egg Commission
50 IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
51 IPC: International Poultry Council
52 OIRSA: Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria
53 PANAFTOSA: Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center
54 SG-CAN: General Secretariat of the Andean Community
55 SSAFE: Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere
56 WRO: World Renderers Organisation
2. **Report on OIE Council meetings**

Drs Hugo Idoyaga Benítez and Joaquín Delgadillo Álvarez, Members of the OIE Council, presented a summary of the latest Council meetings. They referred to the monitoring of progress made with the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan, outcomes of the OIE PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum and election procedures. They also highlighted progress with the WAHIS+ project and the Observatory of Standards. They concluded by inviting Delegates to communicate more frequently with Council Members in their region.

3. **Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2020**

The Regional Commission suggested the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session:

- Assessing the competencies of Veterinary Services in the context of international trade

4. **Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas**

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item (without a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas:

- Sustainability of Veterinary Services: experiences and challenges

Based on discussion of the other proposed items, it was suggested to include in the agenda of the next Conference of the Regional Commission, as panel discussion and/or short presentations format, items relating to organised crime and its influence on disease prevention, control and eradication; the integration of national health services and Veterinary Services in a “One Health” environment; and measures to prevent and control new world screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*).

5. **Organisation of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held from 19 to 23 November 2018 in the Dominican Republic**

Dr Nimia Lissette Gómez Rodríguez, Delegate of the Dominican Republic, confirmed that her country was willing and honoured to hold this important regional event and invited all Delegates to attend the conference, which would be held in Punta Cana from 19 to 23 November 2018.

She reported briefly on the various arrangements that the Dominican Republic had made to start organising the conference. Dr Gómez provided general information about the event, assuring the participants that they would be sent all the details in a timely manner.

6. **Request of Saint Lucia to become a new OIE Member**

Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques informed participants of an application by Saint Lucia for the accession as an OIE Member Country, which had been approved by the Council and would be submitted to the World Assembly of Delegates for approval. He added that this was in line with the objective of increasing the number of Caribbean Members of the OIE.

Dr Auria King-Cenac, Chief Veterinary Officer of Saint Lucia, introduced the proposal of her country to become a Member of the OIE.

The proposal of Saint Lucia was unanimously approved by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas.
7. **Election Procedure for the Council, the Regional Commissions and the Specialist Commissions**

Mr Rodney de Souza, Head of the OIE Strategic Partnerships and Legal Affairs Unit, presented the main aspects of the election process. He pointed out that the 86th General Session provided an opportunity to elect members of the Council, the Bureaux of the Regional Commissions and Specialist Commissions, in application of the new candidate evaluation procedure adopted last year.

The plan was for the elections to each governing body to be held electronically, sequentially, and position by position. This would allow the Assembly, if necessary, to agree on a different method, depending on the number of applications and the configuration of the election.

Each Regional Commission was invited to announce its nominations for the new Bureau and the Council on the evening of the conference (Monday, 21 May 2018), together with the final list of selected candidates for the Specialist Commissions. These candidates will be put forward by the Americas region for election on Friday, 25 May.

Mr de Souza answered all the questions raised.

8. **Proposal of candidates for the elections (Closed session):**

   **Council:**

   The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

   - Dr Joaquín Braulio Delgadillo Álvarez (Mexico)
   - Dr Hugo Federico Idoyaga Benítez (Paraguay)

   **Bureau of the Regional Commission:**

   The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

   - **President:** Dr Mark Trotman (Barbados)
   - **Vice-President:** Dr Nimia Lissette Gómez Rodríguez (Dominican Republic)
   - **Vice-President:** Dr Javier Ernesto Suárez Hurtado (Bolivia)
   - **Secretary General:** Dr Jaspinder Komal (Canada)

   **Specialist Commissions:**

   Following the discussion during the meeting of the Regional Commission, in agreement with the Delegate of their respective country, some candidates from the Region were removed from the “List of Candidates Eligible for Nominations for Election to the Specialist Commissions”. The candidates removed from the list will not be proposed for election on Friday 25 May. The candidates below mentioned will be proposed for election on Friday 25 May.

   **Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission**

   The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names, in alphabetical order of countries:

   - Dr Gastón María Funes (Argentina) (2nd position)
   - Dr Bernardo Todeschini (Brazil) (1st position)
Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names, in alphabetical order of countries:

  Dr Joanne Constantine (Canada) (2nd position)
  Dr Alicia Gallardo Lagno (Chile) (1st position)

Biological Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names, in alphabetical order of countries:

  Dr Ana María Nicola (Argentina) (2nd position)
  Dr John Pasick (Canada) (1st position)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names, in alphabetical order of countries:

  Dr Vitor Salvador Picão Gonçalves (Brazil) (2nd position)
  Dr Cristóbal Zepeda (United States of America) (1st position)

The meeting officially ended at 6:30 p.m.
Appendix

MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS
Paris, 21 May 2018

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Report on OIE Council meetings
3. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2020
4. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas
5. Organisation of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held from 19 to 23 November 2018 in the Dominican Republic
6. Request of Saint Lucia to become a new OIE Member
7. Election Procedure for the Council, the Regional Commissions and the Specialist Commissions
8. Proposal of candidates for the elections (Closed session)
The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met on 21 May 2018 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 127 participants, including Delegates and observers from 25 Members of the Commission and 4 observer countries/territories and representatives from 5 organisations:

Members of the Commission: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (People’s Rep. of ~), Chinese Taipei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea (Rep. of ~), Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

Observer countries/territories: France, Hong Kong SAR, Samoa, and the United Kingdom

International/regional organisations: Australian Veterinary Association, Commonwealth Veterinary Association, ICFAW57, NACA58, and World Animal Protection

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. Opening remarks by the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and adoption of the Agenda

Dr Zhang Zhongqiu welcomed participants and started his opening remarks by reviewing major OIE related events and activities in the region since last May, particularly the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, successfully held from 20 to 24 November 2017, in Putrajaya, Malaysia. The Conference was attended by a total of 119 participants, comprising OIE Delegates and/or representatives of 19 Members of the region and senior officers from regional and international organisations. Presentations on the two Technical Items prompted stimulating discussions among participants allowing the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to elaborate and adopt two recommendations as follows: recommendation 1: “How to implement farm biosecurity: the role of government and private sector”; recommendation 2: “Surveillance and risk mitigation measures for illegal and unregulated movement of animals across borders or through markets”. Both recommendations will be presented to the World Assembly of Delegates for endorsement and will become an important guideline not only to the Asia, Far East and Oceania region

57 ICFAW: International Coalition for Animal Welfare
58 NACA: Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific
but to the whole Organisation. He informed Delegates that the final report of the Conference was available in the Delegates' website.

Dr Zhang Zhongqiu also highlighted the excellent support received from the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific when it comes to the coordination of activities in order to facilitate the synergies between the Regional Core Group members. He invited Delegates to take notice of the document on the OIE activities in the region distributed to all participants at the entrance of the meeting.

Finally, Dr Zhang Zhongqiu presented the Agenda for adoption.

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

2. **Confirmation of the dates and venue of the 31st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in 2019**

Dr Norio Kumagai, OIE Delegate of Japan, reiterated his country's offer to host the 31st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania.

He also confirmed that, this time, the Conference will be held in the first week of September 2019 instead of November 2019, the traditional month for holding conferences of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far and Oceania. It will be held in Sendai.

3. **Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 31st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania**

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item (with questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 31st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania:

- Zoonoses and food safety – improving collaboration between animal and public health professionals to achieve a better outcome

4. **Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2020**

The Regional Commission suggested the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates:

- New technological advances in animal therapeutics and vaccine as a tool for control of diseases and AMR

5. **Progress report on Regional Work Plan Framework**

Dr Tashi Samdup, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and OIE Delegate of Bhutan, reminded participants that he had made a presentation at the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Putrajaya, Malaysia, 20-24 November 2017), regarding the state of play on the regional objectives and specific activities as established in the Regional Work Plan Framework 2016-2020, which had been adopted by the Regional Commission in 2015. He went on to explain that, in light of the comprehensive review made at the Regional Conference, the Regional Core Group had agreed to propose modifications to the current Regional Work Plan Framework, keeping the main structure unchanged, and to present it to the Regional Commission for endorsement at its meeting during the 86th OIE General Session in May 2018.
Dr Samdup introduced the proposed modification to the existing Framework, which reconstructs Chapter 3, entitled “Activities for achievement of the regional objectives”, in order to reflect the achievements and new developments since its establishment and to clarify further the roles of the Regional Core Group and the challenges for Regional Commission members.

He added that the modified Framework would be reviewed at the 31st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission in 2019.

After discussion among Delegates, the proposed modification of the Framework was unanimously endorsed.

6. Second OIE annual report on the use of antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals

Dr Delfy Góchez, Chargée de mission from the OIE Science and New Technologies Department, presented the Second OIE annual report on antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals, which had been published in late December 2017. Member participation was much higher and more detailed information was provided than for the first OIE annual report. For example, a larger number of countries responded (146 compared to 130 in the first round) and a larger number provided quantitative data (107 compared to 89 in the first round).

In the second annual report, countries that were unable to provide quantitative data were asked to provide information on the barriers they faced. Thirty-eight countries responded, with most reporting that the relevant data (mainly import data) were held by national authorities outside of veterinary or agricultural services, most often the Ministry of Health.

The additional analysis for quantitative data adjusted for the new OIE animal biomass methodology was also presented, expressed in milligrams per kilogram of animal biomass. Animal biomass was calculated for food-producing species in countries reporting quantitative data for the year 2014, primarily using data from the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and Food and Agriculture Organization Statistics (FAOSTAT). Bovines represented the majority of the animal biomass for the 60 countries reporting amounts of antimicrobials for 2014.

The results from the third data-collection round will be presented at the Second OIE global conference on antimicrobial resistance and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in animals: putting standards into practice. As of 2 May 2018, a total of 151 countries have responded in the third round, with 116 countries providing quantitative data.

7. Discussion on regional positions for the OIE General Session

Dr Hirofumi Kugita reminded participants that the coordination procedure for developing regional positions for the OIE General Session had been developed and adopted at the Regional Commission meeting in May 2017. This was therefore the first time that the region was applying the procedure and endeavouring to develop regional common positions to put forward at the plenary discussion of the OIE General Session.

Dr Kugita stressed how important it was for all OIE members to participate actively in the OIE standard-setting process and said that he expected the coordination procedure to provide all members with a valuable opportunity to better understand the work of the OIE, to recognise the region’s relevant concerns and interests, and to enhance members’ engagement in the standard-setting process.
Dr Kugita then introduced a list of regional common positions proposed by members and asked the proposing members to present the background and rationale for the proposals.

There was discussion among the Delegates on regional positions and some proposals were unanimously approved by the Regional Commission to be put forward at the plenary of the 86th General Session on behalf of the 32 OIE Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania.

Dr Zhang concluded by thanking all Delegates for their active participation in the coordination procedure and expressed the hope that the region would continue to work to strengthen regional coordination and collaboration in order to develop regional positions on key issues.

8. **Election Procedure for the Council, the Regional Commissions and the Specialist Commissions**

Mr Rodney de Souza, Head of the OIE Strategic Partnerships and Legal Affairs Unit, presented the main aspects of the election process. He pointed out that the 86th General Session provided an opportunity to elect members of the Council, the Bureaux of the Regional Commissions and Specialist Commissions, in application of the new candidate evaluation procedure adopted last year. Drs Karin Schwabenbauer and Kamal Tag El Sir El Sheikh, both Council members, were appointed as members of the Credentials Committee and as scrutineers during the elections to take place on Friday 25 May.

The plan was for the elections to each governing body to be held electronically, sequentially, and position by position. This would allow the Assembly, if necessary, to agree on a different method, depending on the number of applications and the configuration of the election.

Each Regional Commission was invited to announce its nominations for the new Bureau and the Council on the evening of the conference (Monday, 21 May 2018), together with the final list of selected candidates for the Specialist Commissions.

9. **Proposal of candidates for the elections (Closed session)**

Before starting the discussion on the proposal of candidates for the elections, the President of the OIE Regional Commission, at the request of some Members of the region, briefly explained the role of the Regional Core Group, pointing out that this initiative had been developed as a mechanism to ensure proper linkages and coordination between the Bureau, the Council and the OIE to better address regional needs and facilitate regional inputs to the work of the Organisation.

When it comes to the role of the Regional Core Group in the selection process, Dr Zhang Zhongqiu explained that it was to encourage the active participation of the Members of the region in the selection process, already endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates during the 85th General Session. Also, the Regional Core Group took the leadership to provide some guidance to ensure that the most suitable experts from the region be proposed.

**Council:**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

- Dr Mark Schipp (Australia)
- Dr Him Hoo Yap (Singapore)
Bureau of the Regional Commission:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

**President:** Dr Sen Sovann (Cambodia)  
**Vice-President:** Dr Tashi Samdup (Bhutan)  
**Vice-President:** Dr Zhang Zhongqiu (People’s Republic of China)  
**Secretary General:** Dr Norio Kumagai (Japan)

Dr Schipp called for any additional members interested in being in the core group as extra members and New Zealand, Iran and Malaysia expressed their interest.

Specialist Commissions:

Following the discussion during the meeting of the Regional Commission, in agreement with the Delegate of their respective country, some candidates from the Region were removed from the “List of Candidates Eligible for Nominations for Election to the Specialist Commissions”. The candidates removed from the list will not be proposed for election on Friday 25 May. The candidates below mentioned will be proposed for election on Friday 25 May.

**Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

- Dr Masatsugu Okita (Japan)  
- Dr Howard Pharo (New Zealand)

**Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

- Dr Ingo Ernst (Australia)  
- Dr Liu Hong (People's Republic of China)

**Biological Standards Commission**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

- Dr Zhiliang Wang (People’s Republic of China)  
- Dr Joseph O'Keefe (New Zealand)

**Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases**

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

- Dr Zengren Zheng (People’s Republic of China)  
- Dr Stephen Cobb (New Zealand)

The meeting officially ended at 6:30 p.m.
MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

Paris, 21 May 2018

Agenda

1. Opening remarks by the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and adoption of the Agenda

2. Confirmation of the dates and venue of the 31st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in 2019

3. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 31st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

4. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2020

5. Progress report on Regional Work Plan Framework

6. Second OIE annual report on the use of antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals

7. Discussion on regional positions for the OIE General Session

8. Election Procedure for the Council, the Regional Commissions and the Specialist Commissions

9. Proposal of candidates for the elections (Closed session)
REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Paris, 21 May 2018

The OIE Regional Commission for Europe met on 21 May 2018 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 126 participants, including Delegates and observers from 43 Members of the Commission and representatives from 7 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and Uzbekistan.


The meeting was chaired by Dr Maris Balodis, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and OIE Delegate of Latvia.

1. Opening by the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and adoption of the Agenda

Dr Maris Balodis, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and OIE Delegate of Latvia welcomed all participants and presented the Agenda for adoption.

The Agenda described in the Appendix was unanimously adopted.

2. Introducing the New Delegates of Europe

The President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe gave a special welcome and congratulated the newly appointed OIE Delegates attending the meeting.

⁵⁹ EEC: Eurasian Economic Commission
⁶⁰ FESASS: Fédération Européenne pour la Santé Animale et la Sécurité Sanitaire
⁶¹ RSPCA: Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
3. **Update on the implementation of the Regional Action Plan Framework of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, including the draft chapters speaking notes for support on behalf of the 53 countries**

Dr Ulrich Herzog, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and OIE Delegate of Austria, provided an overview of the work of the Regional Core Group (RCG) of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, notably focusing on the implementation of the Regional Work Plan Framework over the past year.

He first recalled that during the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission held in Lisbon, the Member Countries discussed the revitalisation of the Task-Force, which was created at the 25th Conference in September 2012 in Fleesensee. It was decided to rename it “Regional Core Group”. Considering the strategic objectives of the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan and the Terms of Reference and Internal Rules of the Regional Commissions, the Regional Commission for Europe agrees to establish a Regional Work Plan Framework for the 2017-2020 period to set up priorities and activities in order to meet the regional needs. The Regional Work Plan Framework will be reviewed regularly and adjusted as necessary in light of new developments.

The Regional Work Plan Framework adopted during the meeting of the OIE Regional Commission of Europe in Paris on the 22nd of March 2017, covers 6 strategic objectives, namely:

1. Contributing to the development of scientifically-based Standards and Guidelines
2. Establishing trust through transparency and communication
3. Ensuring education, capacity and sustainability of Veterinary Services
4. Prevention, Control and Eradication of Animal Diseases
5. Antimicrobial resistance and “One Health”- Policy
6. Promotion of Animal Welfare

It also describes a set of activities (10) to achieve those objectives.

Dr Herzog then provided a detailed update on their implementation, which were reviewed and evaluated by the Regional Core Groups during its 4th (Vienna, 20-21 December 2017) and 5th (Moscow, 17-18 April 2018) meetings:

3.1. **Sufficient financial and human resources:**

To develop a strategy and plan to ensure sufficient financial and human resources to implement the regional activities, on both RCG meetings, the structure and resources were discussed. This work is ongoing and there is the need to consider OIE global budget in the discussion on the resources made available for regional activities. Presentations about the staff resources and the planned actions were given by the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives. The members of the RCG see the need for further discussions. It is foreseen to present an option paper during the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe in September 2018.

3.2. **Establishing a Regional Core Group (RCG):**

The RCG was established by the adoption of the Terms of references and working mechanism of the RCG of OIE Regional Commission of Europe in Paris on 22 May 2018. Two meetings took place in Vienna in December 2017 and Moscow in April 2018.
3.3. Ensure translation of relevant documents in Russian language:

Russia supported the translation of the relevant chapters (for adoption) of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code at the beginning of this year. It was also agreed that the RCG Meetings would be provided with simultaneous interpretation and Russia, as a member of the RCG, offered to support the organiser of the RCG meeting by offering interpreters. The technical equipment has to be provided by the hosting country.

The relevant meeting documents will be translated by the Representations of the OIE.

3.4. Relaunch of the Website:

The relaunch of the Website is on the highest priority. Switzerland offered financial support to finalise the relaunch as soon as possible. During the 5th RCG meeting, the developments were discussed and it was visible that the aim to finalize the relaunch by the Regional Commission Conference in September 2018 would not be achievable due to decision to use the technical systems of the OIE Headquarter instead of developing a separate technical workflow.

3.5. Ensure active participation in the GF-TADs for Europe Standing Groups of Experts on ASF and LSD:

The outcomes of the experts’ groups were discussed and the recommendations were seen as very important for the future work. The RCG thanks the European Commission (EC) for their financial support of these meetings and expressed its hope for future support of this work by EC. The RCG Group members agreed that there is the need to evaluate the existing recommendations and to describe their implementation or possible difficulties encountered by the affected countries and the countries at risk. This evaluation should be done during the next GF-TADs Expert meeting in Autumn 2018.

The discussions concerning the establishment of a regional (multi-disease) vaccine bank is ongoing. There is no decision made and a concept should be developed on later stage.

3.6. Strengthen the work of the GF-TADs for Europe:

During the 7th Steering Committee meeting of the GF-TADs for Europe in October 2017, it was agreed that the Steering Committee should meet annually. These further meetings should take place in the margin of the Conferences of the Regional Commission for Europe, which take place every second year. The next meeting will thus take place in September 2018.

Furthermore, the strengthening of the work of GF-TADs is closely related with the financial and budgetary resource of the OIE Regional Office in Brussels. These aspects have to be further discussed in the light of the resources allocation for the Regional Offices.

3.7. Establishing the GF-TADs expert group for Rabies:

This action was discussed during the Regional Steering Committee of the GF-TADs for Europe in October 2017. During the 5th RCG meeting, the members underlined the importance of this item for many countries in the Region of Europe. It is clear that after finalizing the resources discussion, the members of the RCG will come back to this idea to develop a concept note for the work of such an expert group.
3.8. Enforcement of the OIE Strategy on AMR and the Prudent Use of Antibiotics:

No concrete actions have been taken yet. After the presentation of the activities of Russia during the RCG Meeting in Moscow, the members thought about the development of a survey in the Members of the Region to get an overview about the activities in the whole region.

A concept note could be presented during the Conference of the Regional Commission in Georgia in September 2018.

3.9. Support the members to establish a link to the human health sector:

The members of the RCG agreed that there is a need to await the result of the discussion about the future developments of the PVS Pathway.

3.10. Promote a high level of understanding and awareness of animal welfare:

The implementation of the actions of the OIE Regional Animal Welfare Platform is in line with the Regional Action Plan Framework 2017 - 2020 and was presented and discussed during the RCG meetings. By the end of 2018, the process for the development of the follow-up strategy 2020 – 2023 has to be started. The RCG will have this discussion on its upcoming meetings.

All information regarding the work of the Regional Core Group is available on a dedicated webpage.

Dr Herzog, referring to the Terms of reference of the RCG, indicated that the countries that form the RCG are selected during the meetings of the Regional Commission along with the election of the members of the Bureau; given the good work conducted so far, the proposal was made to keep the composition of the RCG unchanged with the same selected countries (Georgia, Kazakhstan, Spain, Switzerland and United Kingdom). This proposal was agreed.

Finally, Dr Herzog came with a list of speakers proposed to deliver speaking notes as regards to the seven OIE Codes’ Chapters and Aquatic User Guide that had been selected by RCG for a common position on behalf of the 53 Members of Europe.

4. Reconfirmation of FMD free status in the region

In order to maintain their officially recognised disease-free status, OIE Members benefiting from this status are required to submit an annual reconfirmation to the OIE. Dr Laure Weber-Vintzel, Head of the OIE Status Department, presented the Regional Commission for Europe with an analysis of the latest European annual reconfirmations, focusing on foot and mouth disease (FMD). After a brief reminder of the procedure for the submission of annual reconfirmations, she presented the analysis results on the submission of annual reconfirmations by European countries in 2017, highlighting possible improvements, such as respecting the submission deadline and providing comprehensive supporting documents.

Dr Weber-Vintzel also stated that a prerequisite for maintaining an OIE official status was ongoing compliance with OIE requirements and that it was not appropriate to state compliance with European Union or Eurasian Economic Community rules.
Finally, an analysis of the last three annual reconfirmation campaigns (2015-2017) indicated that between 66% and 75% of European countries did not report any FMD suspicion over the one-year period. Almost 60% have not reported any FMD suspicion in the past three years. These figures challenge the sensitivity of the surveillance system and call into doubt the effectiveness of early detection systems. Member Countries of Europe region were invited to encourage reporting of FMD suspicions, with inclusive follow-up investigation, and to ensure an appropriate level of awareness.

5. **Organisation of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in September 2018**

Dr Mikheil Sokhadze, on behalf of Dr Lasha Avaliani OIE Delegate of Georgia, confirmed that his country was willing and honoured to hold this important regional event and invited all Delegates to attend the conference for which invitations were already sent by the OIE Headquarters.

He gave a brief account of the various arrangements that Georgia had made to start organising the conference. Dr Sokhadze provided general information about visa issuance and hotel accommodation, giving assurances that full details would be sent to participants in a timely manner.

6. **Second OIE annual report on the use of antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals**

Dr Margot Raicek, Chargée de mission from the OIE Science and New Technologies Department, presented the Second OIE annual report on antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals, which had been published in late December 2017. Member Countries’ participation was much higher and more detailed information was provided than for the first OIE annual report. For example, a larger number of countries responded (146 compared to 130 in the first round) and a larger number provided quantitative data (107 compared to 89 in the first round).

In the second annual report, countries that were unable to provide quantitative data were asked to provide information on the barriers they faced. Thirty-eight countries responded, with most reporting that the relevant data (mainly import data) were held by national authorities outside of veterinary or agricultural services, most often the Ministry of Health.

The additional analysis for quantitative data adjusted for the new OIE animal biomass methodology was also presented, expressed in milligrams per kilogram of animal biomass. Animal biomass was calculated for food-producing species in countries reporting quantitative data for the year 2014, primarily using data from the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and Food and Agriculture Organization Statistics (FAOSTAT). Bovines represented the majority of the animal biomass for the 60 countries reporting amounts of antimicrobials for 2014.

The results from the third data-collection round will be presented at the Second OIE global conference on antimicrobial resistance and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in animals: putting standards into practice. As of 2 May 2018, a total of 151 countries have responded in the third round, with 116 countries providing quantitative data.

7. **Preliminary conclusions of the Public Private Progress initiative**

Dr Isabelle Dieuzy-Labaye, Senior Advisor, Public-Private Partnerships and Dr Marisa Peyre, Epidemiologist, Deputy Head of the CIRAD-ASTRE Research Unit, provided details on the Public Private Progress initiative, led by the OIE with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and in collaboration with CIRAD.
During their presentation they highlighted that:

- The initiative aimed to support countries in their use of public-private partnerships (PPPs) to strengthen the capacities of national Veterinary Services. This is in line with the recommendations outlined in Resolution no. 39 on PPPs adopted at the 85th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates.

- The first step of this three-year initiative (November 2016-2019) included the development and analysis of an online survey targeting OIE Delegates and representatives from the animal health private sector worldwide. The results identified three clusters of PPPs in animal health. Key success factors and obstacles in establishing and maintaining PPPs were also surveyed, as well as participants' expectations for the OIE to assist in the promotion and development of PPPs in Veterinary Services.

- The three PPP clusters in the field of Veterinary Services are distinguished by the type of private partners involved and the type of relationship and partnership governance established with the public sector. Thus, the first cluster focuses on the delegation of Veterinary Service activities to private veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals. The second cluster includes producers' associations having developed regular collaboration with public Veterinary Services. The third PPP cluster involves private local or multinational companies.

- Based on best practices identified, the OIE now intends to produce guidelines to support the development of impactful and sustainable partnerships between the public and private sectors aimed at improving the performance of national Veterinary Services worldwide.

8. **Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe**

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item (without a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe:

- The importance of the prescription of antimicrobial agents and control of their distribution (with a possible e-tracking system) by the Veterinary Services for a proper implementation of AMR strategy

9. **Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2020**

The Regional Commission suggested the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates:

- Electronic certification for animal and animal product trade: opportunities and challenges

10. **Proposal for designation of new OIE Collaborating Centres**

Dr Christine Middlemiss, OIE Delegate of the United Kingdom, presented the Regional Commission with two applications for the OIE to consider: (1) the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) jointly as an OIE Collaborating Centre for Risk Analysis and Modelling; and (2) the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) Weymouth Laboratory as an OIE Collaborating Centre for Emerging Aquatic Animal Disease.
She provided a brief review of the two proposed centres and their activities and said that full details had already been shared with Delegates but that a few copies were available in the conference room for consultation, if needed.

The Commission decided to postpone the approval of the United Kingdom proposal, pending additional information to be provided by United Kingdom and further discussions to be held at the 28th Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe to take place in Georgia in September 2018.

11. Election Procedure for the Council, the Regional Commissions and the Specialist Commissions

Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, OIE Deputy Director General “Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities”, presented the main aspects of the election process. They pointed out that the 86th General Session provided an opportunity to elect members of the Council, the Bureaux of the Regional Commissions and Specialist Commissions, in application of the new candidate evaluation procedure adopted last year. Drs Karin Schwabenbauer and Kamal Tag El Sir El Sheikh, both Council members, were appointed as members of the Credentials Committee and as scrutineers during the elections to take place on Friday 25 May.

The plan was for the elections to each governing body to be held electronically, sequentially, and position by position. This would allow the Assembly, if necessary, to agree on a different method, depending on the number of applications and the configuration of the election.

Each Regional Commission was invited to announce its nominations for the new Bureau and the Council on the evening of the conference (Monday, 21 May 2018), together with the final list of selected candidates for the Specialist Commissions.

12. Budgets of the OIE Representations in Europe and budgetary perspective on the Regular Budget in 2018-2019 (Closed session)

At the request of the Regional Core Group, Dr Alain Dehove, Director of Finance, gave a brief presentation on the budgets of the OIE Representations in Europe and the budgetary perspective on the Regular Budget in 2018-2019.

He highlighted the following information concerning the budgets of the OIE Representations in Europe (General Session documents 86 SG/4 and 86 SG/5):

- The 2018 budget of the OIE Regional Representation in Moscow (opened in 2013; rent financing agreement signed by the host country in 2017) is estimated at EUR 600 000 in revenues, of which 39% (EUR 232 000) comprises a share of the statutory contributions, 27% (EUR 160 000) comprises voluntary contributions from the host country, and EUR 208 000 (34%) comprises other revenues (including EUR 50 000 from the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund [World Fund]). Expenditure on salaries, missions and running the office are estimated at EUR 188 800 (EUR 237 500 budgeted; EUR 193 300 spent in 2017). The planned budget for regional activities is EUR 115 000 (EUR 165 000 budgeted; EUR 89 700 spent in 2017).

- The 2018 budget of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels is estimated at EUR 444 000 in revenues, of which 72% comes from the World Fund and 28% (EUR 123 000) comprises a share of the statutory contributions. The office premises are provided rent-free by the host country. A 23% share of the planned expenditure (EUR 126 000) is for salaries, missions and running the office (EUR 98 000 budgeted; EUR 54 100 spent in 2017), with the remainder (EUR 421 000) earmarked for regional workshops and meetings (EUR 205,000 budgeted; EUR 272 200 spent in 2017).
In terms of revenue, the 2018 budget of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central Asia (Astana) consists of EUR 200 000 in voluntary contributions from the host country solely. Expenditure on salaries, missions and running the office is estimated at EUR 118 000 (EUR 116 000 budgeted; EUR 104 400 spent in 2017). The planned budget for regional activities is EUR 50 000 (EUR 121 500 budgeted; EUR 86 700 spent in 2017).

Overall, the Europe region benefits from a significant share of Member Country statutory contributions (EUR 355 000 budgeted for 2018 [EUR 301 600 recorded in 2017]) and of voluntary contributions, both financial (EUR 360 000 budgeted for 2018 compared with EUR 399 200 recorded in 2017), and in kind (premises), from host countries or Member Countries (a EUR 158 000 contribution budgeted for 2018 compared with EUR 132 000 recorded in 2017; staff made available), covering the staff and operating costs of the offices in the region.

Member Country voluntary contributions boost the deployment of regional office programmes of activities for implementing the strategic plan. Member Country statutory contributions in the “extraordinary” category augment the OIE Regular Budget (non-earmarked funds).

Dr Dehove also provided the following details on the budget outlook for the Regular Budget in 2018-2019:

- In May 2017, Member Countries voted to increase statutory contributions by 20% (with effect from the 2018 budget).

- To date, two Members have also confirmed their wish to pay extraordinary category A annual contributions of EUR 500 000: France, the host country of OIE Headquarters (already paid up for 2018 and 2019), which previously contributed EUR 400 000 under category B; and Chinese Taipei (for the 2018-2021 period). Further discussions are under way, in particular with other Member Countries in the Europe region.

- One Member Country confirmed that it would be switching from category 6 to category 5 as from 2019. Similar discussions are ongoing with other Member Countries.

- The OIE Council encouraged the Director General to consider introducing an automatic system that would increase the annual level of statutory contributions in line with an annual core inflation rate. Following a historical analysis, it is proposed to use an inflation rate published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). This approach helps to make annual increases in statutory contributions more predictable. Draft Resolution No. 15 proposes to introduce this mechanism as from 2018. The latest annual rate published by the OECD (consumer price index for all member countries [OECD-Total]) is 2.3% for 2017. The financial contributions of OIE Members for 2019 (draft Resolution No. 7) were calculated using this rate of increase (compared to 2018). The OIE Regular Budget for 2019 (draft Resolution No. 6) has been calculated on the basis of this increase.

- Investment in the renovation of the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS+) has been ongoing since 2017. The corresponding expenditure is covered annually by a portion of World Fund grants for the WAHIS+ project, which are transferred to the Regular Budget (amortisation and use of voluntary contributions received for WAHIS+ as and when required). This has a neutral impact on the Regular Budget (revenues from the World Fund equal actual expenditure). WAHIS system maintenance costs are paid from the Regular Budget.

- In 2018 and 2019, the OIE will finance a new Information Systems Master Plan for which the total budget is estimated at EUR 1 359 000 (an extra EUR 512 000 to be financed as part of WAHIS renovation and improvement, which is needed to install and secure an infrastructure capable of hosting WAHIS+). The investment cost relating to
the Information Systems Master Plan for 2018 is estimated at EUR 862 000, of which EUR 593 000 will be allocated to other IT work and EUR 269 000 to other IT equipment. To date, the investment cost relating to the Information Systems Master Plan for 2019 is estimated at EUR 475 000.

– The increase in statutory contributions passed in May 2017 makes it possible, in particular, to: finance the new Information Systems Master Plan; strengthen human resource management; enhance procedures for standard-setting and official recognition of animal disease status; increase support to Members for implementing global strategies for monitoring and controlling priority animal diseases; and continue refurbishing the offices and maintaining the two Headquarters buildings.

– The revised Regular Budget for 2018 (document 86 SG/5; draft Resolution No. 5) is EUR 12 637 000.

– The initial Regular Budget for 2019 (document 86 SG/6-B; draft Resolution No. 6) is EUR 12 770 000.

13. Proposal of candidates for the elections (Closed session)

Council:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

- Dr Christianne Bruschke (The Netherlands)
- Dr Evgeny Nepoklonov (Russia)

Bureau of the Regional Commission:

The Delegates of the Region agreed to keep the composition of the Bureau unchanged and thus proposed the following names:

- President: Dr Maris Balodis (Latvia)
- Vice-President: Dr Ulrich Herzog (Austria)
- Vice-President: Dr Budimir Plavšić (Serbia)
- Secretary General: Dr Aliaksandr Subotsin (Belarus)

Specialist Commissions:

Following the discussion during the meeting of the Regional Commission, in agreement with the Delegate of their respective country, some candidates from the Region were removed from the “List of Candidates Eligible for Nominations for Election to the Specialist Commissions” and some candidates were also added for Biological Standards Commission and Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases. The candidates removed from the list will not be proposed for election on Friday 25 May. The candidates below mentioned will be proposed for election on Friday 25 May.

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

- Dr Etienne Bonbon (France)
- Dr Lucio Ignacio Carbajo Goñi (Spain)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

- Dr Atle Lillehaug (Norway)
- Dr Edmund Peeler (United Kingdom)
Biological Standards Commission

Dr Evgeny Nepoklonov, OIE Delegate of Russia, proposed Dr Ilya Chvala, PhD, Head of Reference Laboratory for Viral Avian Diseases of the FGBI «ARRIAH», in addition to the list of proposed candidates by the OIE Council. Armenia and Kazakhstan supported the proposal of Russia.

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Franck Berthe (France)
Dr Ann Cullinane (Ireland)
Dr Ilya Chvala (Russia)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Dr Evgeny Nepoklonov, OIE Delegate of Russia proposed Dr Artem Metlin, PhD, Deputy Director of the FGBI «ARRIAH», in addition to the list of candidates proposed by the OIE Council. Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan supported the proposal of Russia.

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Kris De Clercq (Belgium)
Dr Silvia Bellini (Italy)
Dr Artem Metlin (Russia)

The meeting officially ended at 6:00 p.m.
Appendix

MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Paris, 21 May 2018

Agenda

1. Opening by the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and adoption of the Agenda

2. Introducing the New Delegates of Europe

3. Update on the implementation of the Regional Action Plan Framework of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, including the draft chapters speaking notes for support on behalf of the 53 countries

4. Reconfirmation of FMD free status in the region

5. Organisation of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in September 2018

6. Second OIE annual report on the use of antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals

7. Preliminary conclusions of the Public Private Progress initiative

8. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe

9. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2020

10. Proposal for designation of new OIE Collaborating Centres

11. Election Procedure for the Council, the Regional Commissions and the Specialist Commissions

12. Budgets of the OIE Representations in Europe and budgetary perspective on the Regular Budget in 2018-2019 (Closed session)

13. Proposal of candidates for the elections (Closed session)
The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 21 May 2018 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 44 participants, including Delegates and observers from 16 Members of the Commission, 1 observer territory, and representatives from 3 international or regional organisations:

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

Observer territory: Palestinian Autonomous Territories.

International/regional organisations: FAO, EUFMD, and The Donkey Sanctuary.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Majid Al-Qassimi, President of the OIE Regional Commission and Delegate of United Arab Emirates, accompanied by Dr Elias Ibrahim, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission and Delegate of Lebanon, and assisted by Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was suggested by the Chair. He informed the meeting that two items had been proposed to be added to the agenda; an “Update on Camel Middle East Network (CAMENET)” and the establishment of the “Aquatic Middle East Network (AQMENET)”, a proposed regional network on aquatic animal health. With the agreement of the Members, these items would be fitted in prior to the discussions relating to the OIE elections. The new agenda items were endorsed for inclusion and the new agenda unanimously adopted.

2. Activities of the Regional Representation in 2018

Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, summarised the activities of the Regional Representation during the 2017-2018 period, highlighting its primary objectives, which are to build the capacity of Veterinary Services for the appropriate implementation of OIE standards and to control and manage animal diseases including zoonoses.

Activities organised during the year were targeted at:

- improving the regional animal disease information;
– securing animal health and welfare by assisting countries in developing appropriate risk management;

– establishing cooperation and harmonising strategies between Middle Eastern countries on important issues of regional concern: the Mediterranean Animal Health Network (REMESA), animal welfare training among others;

– strengthening collaboration with regional and international organisations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) (including connections between International Health Regulations and the OIE PVS Pathway), FAO (including activities under the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs)), the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), and the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR);

– holding conferences and seminars targeting specific issues related to animal and public health, especially training seminars for Focal Points (for animal welfare, veterinary products, communication, veterinary laboratories and aquatic animals);

– promoting the capacities and capabilities of regional laboratories and coordinating their activities (Twinning projects);

– supporting veterinary education through Twinning with developed country institutions.

In addition to the above-mentioned activities, there are specific activities devoted to aquatic, equine and camel diseases (e.g. Camel Middle East Network, Aquatic Middle East Network), which will require ongoing attention over the coming years.

3. Second OIE annual report on the use of antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals

Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Head of the OIE Science and New Technologies Department, presented the Second OIE annual report on antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals, which had been published in late December 2017. Member Countries’ participation was much higher and more detailed information was provided than for the first OIE annual report. For example, a larger number of countries responded (146 compared to 130 in the first round) and a larger number provided quantitative data (107 compared to 89 in the first round).

In the second annual report, countries that were unable to provide quantitative data were asked to provide information on the barriers they faced. Thirty-eight countries responded, with most reporting that the relevant data (mainly import data) were held by national authorities outside of veterinary or agricultural services, most often the Ministry of Health. In addition, there were also issues in terms of information exchange between the public and private sectors relating to antimicrobial use.

The additional analysis for quantitative data adjusted for the new OIE animal biomass methodology was also presented, expressed in milligrams per kilogram of animal biomass. Animal biomass was calculated for food-producing species in countries reporting quantitative data for the year 2014, primarily using data from the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and Food and Agriculture Organization Statistics (FAOSTAT). Bovines represented the majority of the animal biomass for the 60 countries reporting amounts of antimicrobials for 2014.
The results from the third data-collection round will be presented at the Second OIE global conference on antimicrobial resistance and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in animals: putting standards into practice. As of 2 May 2018, a total of 151 countries have responded in the third round, with 116 countries providing quantitative data.

Although there is limited data from the Middle East, existing data shows a very high relative use of macrolides, which is highly important to human health. The presenter encouraged the Members to try to promote the use of other antibiotics.

Given low response rates, she also made a plea for the Members to make an effort to send in more data on their antimicrobial use as well as providing animal biomass data (especially for camels) as this was important to properly measure prudent use in this Region. She informed the Members that a questionnaire relating to the third round of data collection would be circulated around the end of October 2018.

4. Outcomes of the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East

Dr Elias Ibrahim, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission and OIE Delegate of Lebanon, described the outcomes of the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission, held in Istanbul (Turkey) from 2 to 6 October 2017, which had been attended by a total of 67 participants, comprising OIE Delegates and/or representatives of 11 Member Countries and senior officers from 5 regional and international organisations.

Dr Elias Ibrahim listed the main recommendations developed following the discussions of each of the two technical items. Technical Item I (with questionnaire), entitled “Sustainable strengthening of the epidemiology-surveillance systems in the Middle East Member Countries”, had led to recommendations for Member Countries, in particular, to: define their duties, develop relevant legislation and undertake surveillance planning, applying the general and disease-specific provisions of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code; commit to enhancing surveillance, especially through better communication and collaboration between bordering countries, as well as in reporting disease occurrences; ensure they have the required number of suitably trained staff to perform epidemiology-surveillance activities relevant to their animal health situation; nominate their relevant OIE National Focal Points and ensure their participation in OIE capacity-building activities; be actively involved in all relevant activities related to strengthening intersectoral collaboration; take advantage of the new proposed approaches of the PVS Pathway. Technical Item I had also led to recommendations for the OIE, in particular, to: accelerate the modernisation of WAHIS (WAHIS +) to ensure that the system remains a relevant tool for informing about and analysing the animal health situation worldwide; provide guidelines on the expected competencies of veterinary paraprofessionals involved in epidemiology-surveillance activities; continue to provide capacity-building activities for the benefit of relevant OIE National Focal Points; secure funds by exploring with interested partners and donors; support the implementation of PVS Pathway missions and related activities in the region.

Technical Item II (without questionnaire), entitled “Addressing challenges in the Middle East at the human-animal interface under the One Health concept”, had led to recommendations for Member Countries to: pursue their engagement in the OIE PVS Pathway by requesting PVS Evaluation or PVS Evaluation follow-up missions and other missions under this programme and ensure not only that the results of these missions are made available and used during IHR Self-Evaluation, WHO Joint External Evaluation (JEE) missions and all other IHR Monitoring and Evaluation Framework-related activities, but also that the Veterinary Services also participate actively in these activities; establish and make fully active a National One Health Committee(s) or equivalent (if they have not already done so) as a forum to address the challenges at the human-animal-environment interface; request WHO and the OIE to undertake IHR/PVS National Bridging Workshops in the Middle East region; advocate and communicate on the One Health concept among all relevant national stakeholders. Technical Item II had also led to recommendations for the
OIE, in particular, to communicate widely on the recent Tripartite’s Commitment document, in collaboration with FAO and WHO, and, in collaboration with WHO, to strengthen connections between the PVS Pathway and the IHR Monitoring and Evaluation Framework in order to ensure that Veterinary Services are systematically considered as key actors and leading partners in global health security.

5. **Implementation of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy**

In the absence of Dr Ahmad Zahran, OIE Focal Point on animal welfare of the United Arab Emirates, Dr Majid Al Qassimi took his place to brief participants on the training modules on long-haul transport by land and by sea, developed to support implementation of OIE animal welfare standards. These modules were presented during two sessions of Training-the-Trainers Workshops in selected countries in the region, respectively in Amman (Jordan) and Cairo (Egypt).

While the training materials cover animal welfare chiefly in relation to long-haul transport, they also could be applied to short-haul transport. The materials address the welfare of cattle, sheep, horses and poultry during transport, with the focus on animals transported for slaughter.

Six countries of the Middle East were selected to undergo the cycle of three workshops (Egypt, Jordan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Syria and United Arab Emirates), with a further three countries attending the third session.

The workshops were successful and much appreciated by the participants who formed strong cooperation links for the future.

A second cycle on the same topics involving the other countries in the region is planned for 2019, together with an inter-regional conference entitled “Long journey scenario on transport of livestock”, to be held jointly with selected exporting countries in Europe and Latin America.

6. **Confirmation of the date and venue of the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in 2019**

Dr Majid Al-Qassimi reiterated his country’s offer to host the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East.

He also confirmed that this time the Conference will be held in November 2019 instead of September 2019, the traditional month for holding conferences of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East. Further details including exact dates would be provided in the near future.

7. **Selection of Technical Item I (with 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 (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East:

– Better enforcement of standards for safer trade (BESST)
Given this selected technical item also related to the implementation of standards, the Members agreed that the results of the current 2018 OIE General Session technical item questionnaire on “Implementation of OIE Standards by OIE Member Countries: state of play and specific capacity building needs”, particularly for the Middle East, could be reviewed to ensure there was no duplication and ensure that the new technical item and questionnaire would build on existing OIE information.

In addition, the Members also made additional suggestions for a further technical item (without questionnaire) for later confirmation including:

- Risk communication and emergency management for emerging and transboundary animal diseases in the region” (without questionnaire)

  or

- Wildlife trade and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)” (without questionnaire)

  or

- Network on laboratory capacity in the region” (without questionnaire).

8. **Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2020**

The Regional Commission suggested the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2020:

- The impact of climate change on emerging and re-emerging diseases

9. **Preliminary conclusions of the Public Private Progress initiative**

Dr Isabelle Dieuzy-Labaye, Senior Advisor, Public-Private Partnerships and Dr Marisa Peyre, Epidemiologist, Deputy Head of the CIRAD-ASTRE Research Unit, provided details on the Public Private Progress initiative, led by the OIE with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and in collaboration with CIRAD.

During their presentation they highlighted that:

- The initiative aimed to support countries in their use of public-private partnerships (PPPs) to strengthen the capacities of national Veterinary Services. This is in line with the recommendations outlined in Resolution no. 39 on PPPs adopted at the 85th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates.

- The first step of this three-year initiative (November 2016-2019) included the development and analysis of an online survey targeting OIE Delegates and representatives from the animal health private sector worldwide. The results identified three clusters of PPPs in animal health. Key success factors and obstacles in establishing and maintaining PPPs were also surveyed, as well as participants’ expectations for the OIE to assist in the promotion and development of PPPs in Veterinary Services.

- The three PPP clusters in the field of Veterinary Services are distinguished by the type of private partners involved and the type of relationship and partnership governance established with the public sector. Thus, the first cluster focuses on the delegation of Veterinary Service activities to private veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals. The second cluster includes producers’ associations having developed regular collaboration with public Veterinary Services. The third PPP cluster involves private local or multinational companies.
Based on best practices identified, the OIE now intends to produce guidelines to support the development of impactful and sustainable partnerships between the public and private sectors aimed at improving the performance of national Veterinary Services worldwide.

10. **Update on Camel Middle East Network (CAMENET)**

Dr. Al Muhairi from the Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority (ADFCA) – United Arab Emirates briefed Members about the CAMENET network including outlining its objective and concept note. She mentioned that the CAMENET Steering Committee will meet in November 2018 in Abu Dhabi to start the implementation of the network plan for 2018 and 2019 which includes the inter-laboratory comparison programme on selected camel diseases to test and enhance the proficiency of the laboratories in the region.

A workshop on camel disease epidemiology jointly with a workshop of OIE Focal Points for laboratories, supported by international partners and OIE Reference Laboratories (Italy), will be held in November 2018 in the United Arab Emirates. This joint event will build capacity and plan and prepare for the inter-laboratory testing programme, where samples will be collected and tested during 2019, and the results will be discussed at the end of 2019. The need to conduct collaborative research was also discussed.

Members requested that clearer planning documentation be provided for use within their countries in facilitating approvals support for involvement in this CAMENET activity. Dr Ghazi Yehia, Regional Representative for the Middle East, committed to providing this updated documentation via correspondence and it could be discussed further in November 2018.

11. **Establishment of the Aquatic Middle East Network (AQMENET)**

Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, briefly presented on a new initiative, the Aquatic Middle East Network, a proposal to develop a network of expertise on aquatic animal health in the region, based on the CAMENET model. The concept was being developed given the growing importance of aquaculture production and associated health risks in the region. Initial activities were intended to begin in 2019 with leadership from Saudi Arabia.

12. **Election Procedure for the Council, the Regional Commissions and the Specialist Commissions**

Mr Rodney de Souza, Head of the OIE Strategic Partnerships and Legal Affairs Unit, presented the main aspects of the election process. He pointed out that the 86th General Session provided an opportunity to elect members of the Council, the Bureaux of the Regional Commissions and Specialist Commissions, in application of the new candidate evaluation procedure adopted last year. Drs Karin Schwabenbauer and Kamal Tag El Sir El Sheikh, both Council members, were appointed as members of the Credentials Committee and as scrutineers during the elections to take place on Friday 25 May.

The plan was for the elections to each governing body to be held electronically, sequentially, and position by position. This would allow the Assembly, if necessary, to agree on a different method, depending on the number of applications and the configuration of the election.

Each Regional Commission was invited to announce its nominations for the new Bureau and the Council on the evening of the conference (Monday, 21 May 2018), together with the final list of selected candidates for the Specialist Commissions.
13. Proposal of candidates for the elections (Closed session)

Council:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr Majid Al Qassimi (United Arab Emirates)

Bureau of the Regional Commission:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

**President:** Dr Elias Ibrahim (Lebanon)
**Vice-President:** Dr Fajer Al Salloom (Bahrain)
**Vice-President:** Dr Ali Al Doweriej (Saudi Arabia)
**Secretary General:** Dr Mahmoud Alhanatleh (Jordan)

Specialist Commissions:

No candidates were proposed from the Middle East region for any positions to any of the four Specialist Commissions. There was also no discussion on any of the proposed candidates from the other regions.

The region raised the difficulties in gaining sufficient votes for any positions within the Specialist Commissions due to being a small region with relatively few voting Members. Members were reminded that nominations were also being used to populate OIE ad hoc Groups that weren’t subject to OIE Members’ elections and that there was still a benefit to nominations even if they weren’t elected to the Specialist Commissions. Dr Majid Al Qassimi, President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, encouraged all Members to provide nominations for the next round of elections to the Specialist Commissions and that a process to think of possible candidates each year in the region should be initiated.

The meeting officially ended at 5:05 p.m.
MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST
Paris, 21 May 2018

Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Activities of the Regional Representation in 2018
3. Second OIE annual report on the use of antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals
4. Outcomes of the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East
5. Implementation of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy
6. Confirmation of the date and venue of the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in 2019
7. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East
8. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2020
9. Preliminary conclusions of the Public Private Progress initiative
10. Update on Camel Middle East Network (CAMENET)
11. Establishment of the Aquatic Middle East Network (AQMENET)
12. Election Procedure for the Council, the Regional Commissions and the Specialist Commissions
13. Proposal of candidates for the elections (Closed session)