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

Paris, 23 May 2016

The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 23 May 2016 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 56 participants, including Delegates and observers from 14 Members of the Commission, 1 observer territory, and representatives from 6 international or regional organisations:

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

Observer countries/territories: Palestinian Autonomous Territories.

International/regional organisations: CIWF60, EAHS61, FAO, INSCA62, IZS63 and The Donkey Sanctuary.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani (Qatar), President of the OIE Regional Commission, assisted by Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of international and regional organisations.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

2. Report on OIE Council meetings

Dr Hadi Mohsin Al-Lawati, Delegate of Oman and Member of the Council, began his presentation by providing details on Council members and the geographical rotation of the office of President of the OIE. He pointed out that it was customary for the President to have first held the office of Vice-President, which demanded a degree of continuity of the Delegate in question.

Dr Al-Lawati then informed Delegates that the OIE Council had met three times since the last General Session at which the Council was elected. The meetings were held in October 2015, February 2016 and May 2016 and looked at issues of strategic importance for the OIE, including major administrative matters, some of which would be presented to the 84th General Session in the form of draft resolutions. He added that the Council had continued

60 CIWF: Compassion in World Farming
61 EAHS: Emirates Arabian Horse Society
62 INSCA: International Natural Sausage Casing Association
63 IZS: Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale, Italy
to discuss the implementation of the Sixth Strategic Plan (2016-2020), particularly at the February 2016 meeting.

Dr Al-Lawati provided a brief review of the most important issues addressed at the Council meetings, as follows:

1. Detailed appraisal of the 83rd General Session with a view to suggesting improvements for the 84th General Session.

2. Considering the significantly improved recovery of arrears in recent years, the Council wished to review the procedure for implementing Article 5 of the General Rules of the OIE. The Council decided that Member Countries with arrears of five years or more would not be entitled to vote at the 2016 General Session and their Delegates would not receive the Delegate’s allowance.

3. A specific point was emphasised with regard to the procedure for accessing dossiers from Member Countries seeking recognition for official status: namely that Member Countries applying for recognition of their status are required to respond, within 10 days, to requests from other Member Countries for information on the dossier within the 60-day commenting period.

4. After receiving requests for new OIE Representations to be opened, the Council decided that it would first have to consider which criteria would need to be taken into account when deciding whether to open a new OIE office, given that the Organisation is already experiencing financial difficulties with the operation of several Representations.

5. The Council endorsed the principle of a performance evaluation framework document for the OIE Specialist Commissions and suggested that indicators be used. All the Presidents and Members of the four Specialist Commissions have been informed of this new procedure. The Council examined the initial proposals for establishing an evaluation grid.

6. The Council also encouraged efforts to make the Spanish and French language versions of Specialist Commission reports available as quickly as possible to provide sufficient time for comments.

7. It discussed the issue of access to reports of the ad hoc groups and the possibility of making these reports available on the website.

8. The Council considered agreements with other international organisations. The Council approved the signing of agreements with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Indian Ocean Commission.

9. It discussed the platform provided in the Asia/Pacific region to facilitate the exchange of information among countries in the region. This facility does not exempt Member Countries from submitting their comments officially to the OIE. This initiative could be extended to the other regions if it proves successful following several months in operation.

At the Council meetings in February and May 2016, special attention was paid to administrative, budgetary and statutory issues, as well as to the preparation of the 84th General Session.

Finally, Dr Al-Lawati reported that with regard to preparing the 84th General Session, the Council considered proposals from the Director General on the organisation of the General Session and reviewed the Delegates’ nominations for awards in the Gold and Merit
categories. The Council also validated the working programme presented by the Director General, prior to its approval by the Assembly, as well as the new organisational chart, which will be finalised and implemented after the General Session.

3. **Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East**

Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani, Delegate of Qatar and President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries were a matter of concern.

He encouraged Members of the Regional Commission for the Middle East to upgrade their level of statutory contributions to the OIE in line with their national level of economic development, in order to support the activities of the Regional Commission and Regional Representation more effectively, adding that further efforts should also be made to find new sources of funding for OIE activities in the region.

He stressed the relevance of maintaining regular regional scientific meetings, in particular capacity building seminars for OIE National Focal Points in the various fields of activity, as part of the process of strengthening Veterinary Services. In that regard, he commented on the seminar on animal welfare that had already been held in April 2016 (in Amman, Jordan) and those to be held later this year, on veterinary laboratories (September 2016), disease notification (November 2016) and aquatic animal diseases (December 2016).

He concluded by announcing specific regional activities planned later this year, which still have to be confirmed: a regional conference on rabies control (September 2016), as recommended by the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, held in Kaslik in November 2015; FAO/OIE Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) regional roadmap meetings on Progressive Control Pathways for foot and mouth disease (FMD) and peste des petits ruminants (PPR) (October 2016); animal welfare activities under the Middle East Animal Welfare Action Plan for 2016-19; activities relating to camel diseases.

Dr Al Qahtani concluded by acknowledging a motion of thanks to the countries hosting the regional activities: Jordan, Lebanon, Qatar and United Arab Emirates.

4. **Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East**

Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, described the main objectives of the activities implemented by the OIE Regional Representation over the previous 12 months, which had focused mainly on building the capacity of Veterinary Services and contributing to animal disease prevention and control in the Middle East.

Dr Yehia provided details of the assistance given to countries wishing to take part in laboratory twinning-like projects: Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority (ADPCA) with Italy’s Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale (IZS) for camel diseases; Jordan Bio-Industries Center (JOVAC) with the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) for PPR vaccine; CVLBR with CIRAD for diseases of small ruminants, with specific reference to PPR and contagious caprine pleuropneumonia; Yemen with South Africa for Rift Valley fever; and Yemen with the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (ANSES) for bee diseases.

He presented the conclusions of: the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, held in Kaslik (Lebanon) on 10-13 November 2015; the sub-regional camel diseases conference, held in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) on 14-16 February 2016; and the OIE Regional Conference “Towards the Application of the OIE Standards on Zoning”, held in Amman (Jordan) on 3-5 April 2016.
He also provided a brief summary of planned activities over the coming seven months, highlighting that, for some of them, the budget still had to be confirmed, including: seminar for National Focal Points for laboratories, (September 2016); regional conference on rabies control (September 2016); seminar for National Focal Points for disease notification (Sharm El Sheikh, November 2016); regional roadmap meetings on Progressive Control Pathways for FMD and PPR (October 2016); disease status and endorsed control programme recognition training (October 2016); seminar for National Focal Points for aquatic animals (Jeddah, December 2016).

5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the Agenda of the 86th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2018

The following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) was proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 86th General Session:

– Levels of good emergency management practices (GEMP) at ministerial level

6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East

The following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) was adopted for the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East:

– Sustainable strengthening of the epidemiology-surveillance systems in Middle East Member Countries

7. Rinderpest post-eradication activities

Ms Tianna Brand, Chargée de mission from the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, briefly summarised the rinderpest post-eradication era since 2011 by pointing out positive progress in reducing the risk of re-emergence. In 2015-2016, Australia, Brazil and Switzerland destroyed their stored rinderpest virus-containing materials (RVCM); Botswana transferred all its RVCM to AU PANVAC; and Japan transferred RVCM to the rinderpest holding facility in Tokyo and destroyed its RVCM holdings in other non-approved facilities.

While these efforts are to be commended, global freedom remains at risk while the virus continues to be stored in numerous locations. She highlighted another opportunity to reduce holdings through the “sequence and destroy project” with the United Kingdom’s Pirbright Institute and the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD). The aim of the project is to destroy all the RVCM after collecting its full-genome sequences. She encouraged Member Countries to take part in the project.

Finally, she reported that the FAO-OIE Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee continued to meet to review applications and to advise on policies and future activities in the post-eradication era. In conclusion, she reminded Delegates to maintain their national contingency plans, carry out general surveillance, and continue their annual reporting, as stipulated in Chapter 8.15 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

8. Confirmation of the venue of the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in September 2017

Dr Nihat Pakdil, Delegate of Turkey, confirmed the offer of his country to host the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East. The Conference will be held in Istanbul (Turkey) in September 2017.
9. Status of notifications by Members in Middle East

Dr Neo Mapitse, Deputy Head of the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, gave a brief update on the status of notifications by Members in the Region as of 20 May 2016. He started by providing detailed regional information on compliance with reporting for 2015, separately for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases. Then, he showed the percentage of Members with outstanding reports and encouraged them to submit the reports, not only for 2015 but also for previous years, emphasising the importance of timely disease reporting by countries/territories through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS), and of their providing other epidemiological information on disease prevention and control. Dr Mapitse also gave an overview of the OIE-listed diseases and infections currently of major interest in the region. Dr Mapitse concluded by presenting the results of the online survey “Evaluation of WAHIS, 10 years after the launch”, which was designed to gather feedback from Veterinary Authorities on their level of satisfaction as WAHIS users, the challenges experienced during the notification process and suggestions for improvement. He highlighted the topics most frequently cited by respondents in the region as needing improvement.

10. Outcomes of the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, held in Kaslik, Lebanon, from 10 to 14 November 2015

Dr Ghazi Yehia presented the following recommendations adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 14 November 2015 at its 13th Regional Conference.

Recommendation No. 1: Control of rabies in the Middle East Region, with emphasis on stray dog control:

1. The Member Countries, with the support of the OIE, WHO, and FAO, develop and adopt a Regional Strategy for the eradication of rabies from the Middle East in which the vaccination of dogs and the control of stray dog populations, in compliance with the relevant OIE standards, including Animal Welfare standards, will be key components;

2. The Member Countries develop national roadmaps, including extension programmes, for the control of rabies, which will provide a pathway towards achieving the objectives of the aforementioned Regional Strategy, based on measurable activities and realistic timelines and indicators;

3. The Veterinary Services of Member Countries collaborate with the Public Health Services (Ministry of Public Health), municipalities, relevant NGOs and local communities to develop the national roadmaps and benefit from the cost-effective advantage of eliminating rabies at the animal source through appropriate programmes;

4. The Member Countries, with the support of the OIE and in collaboration with WHO and FAO, update and enforce their legislation (in accordance with the Regional Strategy) to comply with relevant standards, including those of the OIE, for effective rabies prevention and control, and stray dog population control;

5. The OIE, in collaboration with WHO and FAO, organise biennial “One Health” coordination regional workshops in the Middle East to provide technical support and monitor the progress of the Member Countries, to discuss future steps and actions, and, when relevant, to review and update the aforementioned Regional Strategy;

6. The OIE, with the financial contribution of Member Countries and donors, consider the establishment of an OIE Rabies Vaccine Bank to which Member Countries of the Middle East region would have access; and
7. The OIE, provided funding is available, organise in 2016 a Regional Conference in the Middle East aimed at presenting to Member Countries the OIE standards applicable to rabies and stray dog population control, establishing the baseline situation of the Member Countries and validating the aforementioned Regional Strategy.

Recommendation No. 2: *The use of non-structural proteins to differentiate between vaccinated and infected animals:*

1. According to their national FMD status, and their official control programme, including vaccination strategy, Member Countries clearly define the purpose of serosurveys: e.g. (i) to determine the serological prevalence, (ii) to provide robust evidence that the country or a zone of the country is free from FMD, and (iii) to monitor the population immunity after vaccination;

2. With the support from the OIE/FAO FMD Laboratory Network, Member Countries identify and compile the FMDV field strains currently circulating in the Middle East region as well as the strains that could sporadically occur; and

3. Member Countries compile a list of all vaccines (including details of manufacturers, specific FMDV strains, formulations, and degree of purity) that are currently deployed or available in the Middle East region.

11. **Update on antimicrobial resistance: actions and events since the 83rd General Session**

Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began her presentation by saying that the 83rd World Assembly of OIE Delegates in 2015 had adopted Resolution No. 26 on combating antimicrobial resistance and promoting the prudent use of antimicrobial agents in animals, following Resolution No. 25 on veterinary products adopted in 2009 and recommendations made at the first OIE Global Conference on the Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents for Animals in 2013. One major point of Resolution 26 relates to the collection of data on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals with a view to establishing a global database. Major progress has been achieved in this area and OIE Member Countries have made considerable efforts. Indeed, a response rate of over 70% to the challenging questionnaire is seen as a real success. The results of the first phase of the project will be presented under Technical Item 2 on Tuesday. However, the response rate from Middle East countries was not adequate. She encouraged OIE Members from this region to increase the level of participation.

She went on to explain that Resolution 26 also invited Member Countries to follow the guidance of the WHO Global Action Plan on AMR developed with the support of the OIE and in the spirit of the “One Health” approach. Since the Global Action Plan was adopted in May 2015, the fight against AMR under the FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite Collaboration has reached an unprecedented political level.

Dr Erlacher-Vindel pointed out that the issue of AMR had been mentioned at the G7 Health Ministers’ meeting in Berlin (Germany) in October 2015, attended by Dr Monique Eloit, as well as at the recent G7 Agriculture Ministers’ meeting in Japan in April 2016. The next step envisioned is a resolution or high-level document on AMR endorsed by the upcoming United Nations General Assembly in September 2016. To prepare this important event, in April 2016 the Tripartite hosted a High-Level Dialogue on AMR at the United Nations in New York to raise awareness of AMR and to invite participants to follow up with their respective Ministers of Foreign Affairs.
Dr Erlicher-Vindel concluded by saying that the OIE and its Member Countries had made major efforts in recent years to update and complete the standards and to adopt ambitious recommendations. Dr Erlicher-Vindel pointed to the need to collectively communicate on these achievements and to seek solidarity to support Member Countries in progressing with the implementation of standards, taking a step-wise approach. To this end, she noted that the OIE Council had proposed Technical Item 2 on Combating Antimicrobial Resistance through a “One Health Approach”: Actions and OIE Strategy, which would address OIE achievements and projects and would provide the basis for the OIE strategy.

Dr Ghazi Yehia commented that national contact points for antimicrobial resistance have been nominated in the Middle East region upon a specific request from the WHO Regional Office. He highlighted that these contact points are not always the OIE National Focal Points for veterinary products. Dr Elisabeth Erlicher-Vindel concluded that this appears to be a specific problem in the region, which should be addressed.

The Delegate of Qatar stressed that the questionnaire on antimicrobial resistance required too much and detailed information. Dr Erlicher-Vindel requested that a response for baseline information should be provided as a minimum, and that the remaining information could be submitted to the OIE at a later stage.

12. **Activities undertaken by the Hashemite Fund for Development of Jordan Badia**

Her Highness Sharifa Zein Alsharaf bint Nasser briefly presented the activities undertaken by the Hashemite Fund for Development of Jordan Badia (HFDJB). She referred to the OIE Regional Conference “Towards the Application of the OIE Standards on Zoning”, held in Amman (Jordan) on 3-5 April 2016 with the support of the HFDJB, which had been attended by 61 participants, including 25 representatives from the Veterinary Services of 14 countries from the Middle East.

She went on to explain that the HFDJB had launched a livestock trading project in Mohammadiya (southern Jordan) with goals in three strategic areas: (i) socio-economic (to develop the local economy, creating 1,000 direct and indirect jobs) and food security; (ii) commercial (to increase regional trade in livestock through capacity-building to enable the import and re-export of up to 200,000 head per month, worth USD 0.5 billion per year; and (iii) animal health (in public-private partnership with the Jordanian Veterinary Services, supported by international expertise, to establish a disease-free zone around the project area and to secure high health standards in regional livestock trade).

She added that the strong involvement of the Jordanian Government in the public-private partnership (the project is a national priority) was a valuable asset in the pursuit of recognition for the zoning concept in the Middle East, with the technical assistance of the OIE, European Union and Italy.

She concluded by saying that the presentations and fruitful discussions between Delegates and experts paved the way for further appropriation of the zoning concept in the region, as well as for more regional dialogue between trading partners and for harmonisation of animal health import requirements in the region, in compliance with the provisions of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), as reflected in the “Amman Declaration”.

13. **State of play of the twinning project between the Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority (ADFCA) and the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale (IZS) on camel diseases**

His Excellency Adel Al Zaabi, Executive Director of the Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority (ADFCA), began his presentation by pointing out that increasing global demand for live camels and their products and the higher risk of transboundary animal diseases and zoonotic diseases posed by growing international trade in camels, had led the OIE, through
a specialised ad hoc group, to recommend the establishment of both a regional reference centre for the epidemiology and diagnosis of camel diseases and a network of laboratories.

He said that, to address this challenge, in May 2015 ADFCA had funded a twinning-like project on camel diseases with Italy’s IZS in Brescia, Palermo and Teramo. Its purpose is to establish a regional centre on camel diseases within ADFCA, which, after at least five years, is expected to become the first OIE Collaborating Centre specialised in the diagnosis and epidemiology of camel diseases. Beyond the transfer of technical skills and scientific capacity-building, the project’s specific aims are to identify priority diseases of camels in the Arabian Peninsula and to develop standard diagnostic techniques and specific vaccines and vaccination protocols for these diseases in compliance with OIE standards.

14. Validation of the Middle East Animal Welfare Strategy implementation plan 2016-2019

Professor Hassan Aidaros, Member of the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group, presented the Middle East Animal Welfare (ME AW) Action Plan for 2016-2019 for final comments and adoption by the Regional Commission for the Middle East.

He described the strategic objective of the Action Plan (empowering Veterinary Services to take animal welfare actions in compliance with OIE standards) and its three specific objectives: (i) raising awareness and achieving a high level of understanding of animal welfare in the Middle East; (2) steadily advancing with the implementation of OIE standards on animal welfare; and (3) encouraging Member Countries to take part in the OIE standard-setting process, with the CG serving as the major cross-cutting activity for meeting these three technical objectives.

Prof. Aidaros presented the four priorities of the Action Plan: transport of animals by sea (OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code Chapter 7.2); transport of animals by land (Chapter 7.3); slaughter of animals (Chapter 7.5); and stray dog population control (Chapter 7.7).

He concluded by listing the priority activities of the Action Plan, as follows:
- to prepare an advocacy document on the ME RAWS and Action Plan in order to attract donors (key activity supporting the others);
- to organise the governance and implementation of the Action Plan (meetings of the CG);
- to develop an OIE website on animal welfare in the Middle East;
- to organise training of trainers on livestock handling and welfare during transport by land and sea, and during time spent on farm/feedlot and time spent at the slaughterhouse;
- to organise a regional workshop on animal welfare for slaughter livestock (transport, handling and slaughter); and
- to organise a regional workshop on stray dog population control.

The Middle East Animal Welfare Strategy Implementation Plan was unanimously adopted.

In addition, the Delegate of the United Arab Emirates announced the organisation of the first Animal Welfare Conference in this country, which will be held before the end of the year. Furthermore, Dr Ghazi Yehia announced that the Sub-Regional Conference on Rabies Control in the Near East that would be held in September 2016, depending on availability of funds, would include a stray dog population control component.
15. **Election of the Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East**

Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani, Delegate of Qatar and President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, informed participants that, as the Delegate of Saudi Arabia had changed, leaving vacant the position of Vice-President of the Regional Commission, a partial election needed to be held.

The Commission unanimously nominated the Delegate of United Arab Emirates, Dr Majid Al-Qassimi, as Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East.

16. **Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE**

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Dr Markos Tibbo, Livestock Officer at the FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, began his presentation by explaining that FAO assisted member countries by building their capacity in: surveillance, prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases (FMD, lumpy skin disease, PPR) and zoonoses (H5N1 AI, Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus [MERS-CoV], brucellosis); improving animal productivity and efficiency; and assessing the status of animal genetic resources. Factors such as disruption of Veterinary Services in countries affected by conflict and a rise in unregulated movements of animals have increased the threat of transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses in the region. FAO has provided training in: good emergency management practices; biosecurity measures; and preparedness for and response to animal disease emergencies. It has also provided a neutral stakeholder forum.

Dr Tibbo added that FAO provided direct support for the surveillance, diagnosis and control of priority animal diseases (FMD, PPR, lumpy skin disease, Rift Valley fever, highly pathogenic avian influenza (subtype H5N1), MERS-CoV). To that end, FAO organises major events, in collaboration with the OIE and the World Health Organization (WHO), on such issues as: contribution of livestock to food security; FMD and PPR control and eradication; MERS-CoV and “One Health”; camel diseases; antimicrobial resistance. He also announced the opening of a FAO Subregional Office for Mashreq countries in Lebanon, an Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) Office in Jordan, and a FAO Country Office in Kuwait.

He concluded by saying that FAO had provided technical, institutional or policy advice through capacity-building, knowledge management and the mobilisation of experts on sustainable livestock production and the management of feed and animal genetic resources. It had also helped small-scale dairy, poultry and small ruminant farmers to increase their produce, income, access to markets and resilience to shocks.

The Delegate of the United Arab Emirates mentioned the importance to develop local capacities on food security within the Middle East region, in particular by preserving and improving the genetics of local breeds.

The meeting ended at 5:45 p.m.
MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST
Paris, Monday 23 May 2016

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani, Delegate of Qatar and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Middle East);

2. Report on OIE Council meetings (Dr Hadi Mohsin Al-Lawati, Delegate of Oman and Member of the Council);

3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani);

4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East (Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East);

5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the Agenda of the 86th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2018 (Dr Hadi Mohsin Al-Lawati);

6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani);

7. Rinderpest post-eradication activities (Ms Tianna Brand, Chargée de mission, Scientific and Technical Department);

8. Confirmation of the venue of the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in September 2017 (Dr Nihat Pakdil, Delegate of Turkey);

9. Status of notifications by Members in Middle East (Dr Neo Mapitse, Deputy Head, OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department);

10. Outcomes of the 13th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, held in Kaslik, Lebanon, from 10 to 14 November 2015 (Dr Ghazi Yehia);

11. Update on antimicrobial resistance: actions and events since the 83rd General Session (Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head, OIE Scientific and Technical Department);

12. Activities undertaken by the Hashemite Fund for Development of Jordan Badia (Her Highness Sharifa Zein Alsharaf bint Nasser);

13. State of play of the twinning project between the Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority (ADFCA) and the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale (IZS) on camel diseases (Dr Salama Al Muhairi, UAE-ADFCA);

14. Validation of the Middle East Animal Welfare Strategy implementation plan 2016-2019 (Prof. Hassan Aidaros, Member of the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group);

15. Election of the Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani);

16. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE:
   - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

17. Other matters.