

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Paris, 23 May 2011

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 23 May 2011 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 110 participants, including Delegates and observers from 38 Members of the Commission and 4 observer countries/territories and representatives from 7 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Congo (Dem. Rep. of the), Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Observer countries/territories: France, South Soudan, United Kingdom, United States of Americas.

International/regional organisations: AU-IBAR¹, EU², ECOWAS³, FAO⁴, SADC⁵, WAEMU⁶, WB⁷

The meeting was chaired by Dr Berhe Gebreegziabher (Ethiopia), President of the Commission, and Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Dr Berhe Gebreegziabhe, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, welcomed all participants to the meeting, expressing a special welcome to Mr Habib Ben Yahia, Secretary General of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU). The Secretary General attended the 79th OIE General Session in order to sign an agreement with the OIE.

Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, proposed some amendments to the agenda. The amendments were unanimously adopted, as follows:

- The Secretary General of AMU would be the first to address the Commission.

1 AU-IBAR: African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
2 EU: European Union
3 ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States
4 FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
5 SADC: Southern African Development Community
6 WAEMU: West-African Economic and Monetary Union
7 WB : World Bank

- The Item regarding Council update - OIE Basic Texts would be presented at the end in order to give Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Deputy Director General, the opportunity to present the item.
- Dr Joseph Domenech, Vice-President of Vet 2011, would address the Commission regarding the development of the activities under the umbrella of Vet 2011.
- Dr Ofosu, representative from Ghana, would give an honorary certificate to Dr Bernard Vallat.

The Agenda, including the amendments, is included in the Appendix.

2. Speech from the secretary General of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)

Mr Habib Ben Yahia, Secretary-General of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), started his speech thanking Dr Bernard Vallat, OIE Director General, for having invited AMU to attend the 79th OIE General Session and to address the Regional Commission for Africa.

Mr Ben Yahia explained that AMU countries are all subject to the same climatic conditions and are situated in the same epidemiological area. Economically speaking, animal resources are of special importance because of the key role they play in the economic and social life of Maghreb countries. That is why they have attracted special attention from the Maghreb authorities.

He pointed out that as soon as the organisation had set up its Specialised Ministerial Committee for Food Security in January 1990, it was entrusted with the task of overseeing the joint Maghreb effort for animal resource development and management. This institutional framework was strengthened by the establishment of a Maghreb Veterinary Committee whose task is to define, plan and coordinate the implementation of Maghreb action plans for animal health and trade in animals and animal products. The agreement on cooperation in the veterinary field, adopted in March 1991, provides the legal framework for joint Maghreb action in the field of animal health. The implementation of this agreement led to the adoption, in 2004, of the AMU Regional Programme for Food Security (RPFS), which includes several ongoing projects.

Mr Ben Yahia noted that the resurgence of transboundary diseases, including zoonotic ones, has prompted the competent Maghreb authorities to step up their cooperation to consolidate their surveillance and early-warning capacity.

In closing, he commented that the Maghreb transboundary disease surveillance network, which was set up in 2006 to improve the prevention and control of epizootics in the Maghreb region, provides the institutional framework for regional cooperation.

3. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Berhe Gebreegziabher reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries were a matter for concern and urged Members to promptly settle their arrears if they had any.

4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

Dr Berhe Gebreegziabher, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, gave a brief review of the activities in which the OIE Regional Commission had participated in the previous 12 months.

He made special reference to the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Kigali from 15 to 18 February 2011, highlighting the fruitful discussions participants had during the Conference and the two recommendations adopted by the Commission. He also commented on the one day OIE-PVS Pathway Regional Seminar held back to back with the Regional Conference.

The other activities listed by Dr Gebreegziabher included: the first OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation, held in Djerba in December 2010, the OIE Global Conference on Wildlife, held in Paris in February 2011, the Seminar for Animal Production Food Safety Focal Points, held in Tunisia, and the 6th Steering Committee Meeting of the GF-TADs for Africa.

Finally, the President of the Commission commented on the meeting of Directors of Veterinary Services and Chief Veterinary Officers, held in Nairobi on early May. During this meeting the proposed changes to the OIE Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes, which were submitted for adoption at the 79th OIE General Session, were examined.

The report was approved.

5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and of the OIE Sub-Regional Representations in the Region and the Regional Animal Health Centres

Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, gave a summary of the activities carried out from 1 January to 1 May 2011 by the Regional Representation and the three OIE Sub-Regional Representations for Africa. These included missions to support capacity-building activities for Delegates, National Focal Points and Presidents of Veterinary Statutory Bodies. These activities also covered the PVS pathway, the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) (advanced training) and food safety.

The Regional Representative made special reference to the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 15 to 18 February 2011. Dr Samaké indicated that the Conference had been a success.

Furthermore, Dr Samaké made reference to the participation of the OIE Regional Representation in statutory meetings of GF-TADs and ALive.

The Regional Representative also commented on his participation in the Ministerial Meeting of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The meeting recommended signing an agreement between ECOWAS and the Government of Mali regarding the Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC). The meeting also recommended that the RAHC be turned into an ECOWAS specialised institution.

The Regional Representative briefly described some of the other meetings and events that had taken place in the African region from 1/01/2011 to 1/05/2011, as follows:

- The audience granted by the Rwandan Prime Minister to the OIE Director General;
- The appointment of the new OIE Regional Representative for Africa;
- The ceremony, attended by the President of the Republic of Mali, to inaugurate the new headquarters of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa; and
- The audience granted by the President of the Republic of Mali to the OIE Director General.

Regarding the activities planned for the period from 1 May to 31 December 2011 the Representative summarised them as follows:

- Entry into office of the Deputy OIE Regional Representative for Africa;
- Capacity-building in the following areas: recently appointed Delegates, diseases of honey bees, veterinary products and aquatic animal diseases;
- Implementation of the OIE-PVS pathway and the programme for modernising veterinary legislation;
- Participation in the 79th OIE General Session, as well as in the annual meeting of Regional and Sub-Regional Representations;
- Participation in the OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health Programmes and;
- Participation in the Global Conference on Rabies Control.

6. Progress of the regional vision and activities regarding the 5th OIE Strategic Plan

Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, presented a concept note prepared by the OIE management team in Africa, based on the 5th OIE Strategic Plan, adopted in the course of the 78th OIE General Session in May 2010. The note aim at increasing the political, financial and technical visibility of the OIE in Africa, which is necessary for the smooth implementation of the African components of the 5th Strategic Plan.

The Regional Representative noted that the OIE, with its worldwide mandate, is sometimes seen, by African elites not directly concerned, as an institution that is ill-adapted to African needs. The OIE felt it important to have a policy strategy document to convince policy-makers at the national, regional and continental level of the importance of establishing strong cooperation with the OIE.

Dr Samaké explained that the note clearly demonstrates, in terms intentionally accessible to the non-specialist, the close agreement between the OIE's five-year Strategic Plan and three pillars of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and Millennium Development Goals.

The note demonstrates also that the OIE Regional Commission for Africa must be considered as a Regional Organisation.

The note has been endorsed by the meeting.

7. Selection of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 81st General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2013

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 81st General Session:

“Interventions to improve Veterinary Services capacity in aquatic and bee health”

8. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2013

The following technical item (with questionnaire) was adopted for the 20th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa:

“Promoting intra-Africa trade of animal and animal products”

9. Recommendations of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 14 to 18 February 2011

Dr Yacouba Samaké gave an account of the two recommendations adopted during the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa.

Regarding Recommendation N°1 *“Livestock census in Africa as a vital tool for livestock disease surveillance and control”*, Dr Samaké remarked that obtaining accurate livestock census data is a critical component of any disease control programme. He pointed out that there are OIE standards on identification and traceability of live animals and that useful data can be found in the annual OIE publication *“World Animal Health”*. In Africa, there are numerous difficulties (i.e. cultural, logistical, infrastructural and resource difficulties) in conducting effective livestock censuses. Efforts are being made to resolve these difficulties, notably using the PVS Pathway.

Dr Samaké indicated that the recommendation adopted by the Commission supports OIE Members in strengthening their Veterinary Services by enacting their legislative and regulatory texts to support livestock census activities and by promoting the use of WAHIS to transmit data. The recommendation states that the OIE, in collaboration with AU-IBAR and FAO, should promote awareness among African Governments and encourage donors to support livestock censuses (including censuses for camelids) and related activities. The OIE should develop guidelines on livestock censuses, including a definition of the term *“census”*.

In reference to recommendation N° 2 *“Main pathologies of camels, breeding of camels, constraints, benefits and perspectives”*, the Regional Representative explained that for people living in arid and semi-arid regions, camels provide an important source of income and dietary protein and are used as beasts of burden for traction and transport, and demand is increasing. The development of international trade could increase the risk of transmission of transboundary diseases of camels, yet the knowledge of camel diseases is currently insufficient and there is a need to improve the number of specialised professionals with expertise in camels.

The Regional Representative explained that recommendation N°2, adopted by the Regional Conference, proposes that the OIE should continue to support its Member Countries in strengthening their Veterinary Services to develop their diagnostic and research capabilities. It states that the OIE should support twinning projects between laboratories, and OIE Member Countries should encourage the setting up of harmonised disease surveillance systems, and, in collaboration with donors, the implementation of regional research and development programmes. It also recommends that the OIE should develop standards and guidelines for international trade of camelids and their products.

10. Confirmation of the date and venue of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

Dr Deodass Meenowa, Delegate of Mauritius to the OIE, could not attend the Conference. He had proposed that his country host the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, but Dr Yacouba Samaké asked the Commission to look for a second option in case Mauritius are not be able to host the Conference.

Dr Batassé Batawui, Delegate of Togo to the OIE, proposed that his country host the next Regional Conference if Mauritius is not able to hold it in 2013.

The Commission approved the proposal.

Without official confirmation from Mauritius before end of June 2011, Togo will host the Conference.

11. Election of a Member of the Bureau of the Regional Commission (if necessary)

Dr Berhe Gebreegziabhe informed the Conference that, for personal reasons, he would be obliged to leave the post of President of the Commission. Therefore, an election was necessary.

Dr Samaké thanked and congratulated Dr Berhe Gebreegziabher for all the work done during his years of presidency. Dr Samaké explained the procedure for elections and asked the Commission to vote.

Dr Abdel Kader Diarra, Delegate of Mali to the OIE, proposed Dr Mahamadou Saley, Delegate of Niger and current Vice-President of the Commission, to take the place of President. The Delegate of Senegal supported this proposal, which was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Dr Yacoub Adam Hassan, Delegate of Chad to the OIE, nominated by the Delegate of Gabon and supported by the Delegate of Mali, was unanimously elected to join the secretariat of the Commission.

The new Members will exercise their functions until 2012, as elections for the entire bureau are scheduled for the next General Session.

The new Bureau of the Commission is composed as follows:

President:	Dr Mahamadou Saley (Niger)
Vice-President:	Dr Mohammed Abdel Razig Abdel Aziz (Sudan)
Vice-President:	Dr Marosi Molomo (Lesotho)
Secretary General:	Dr Adam Hassan Yacoub (Chad)

12. Outcome of the OIE PVS Pathway Regional Seminar held in Kigali, Rwanda, on 14 February 2011

Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, presented the outcomes of the OIE PVS Pathway Regional Seminar held in Kigali, Rwanda, on 14 February 2011, attended by 57 participants from 40 OIE Member Countries. The purpose of this Seminar was to improve the good governance of Veterinary Services. Good governance is essential if Veterinary Services are to fulfil their missions and continue to be regarded as a Global Public Good. The evaluation of Veterinary Services' compliance with OIE standards is a starting point for modernising Veterinary Services. The OIE proposes various other mechanisms for this purpose, all of which have been recognised by their technical and financial partners.

The main recommendations of the Seminar were related to the PVS Pathway which, it was concluded, should be considered by all stakeholders as a key component in strengthening Veterinary Services in Africa. OIE Member countries should consequently be committed to finding the funds necessary to improve any weaknesses that a PVS evaluation identifies and to implementing appropriate and effective animal health and welfare policies. In addition, the RECs and AU-IBAR should also use the PVS output to develop a regional approach to dealing with the identified gaps.

The Regional Commission adopted the recommendations arising from that meeting.

13. OIE/EC BTSF Project in Africa including focal point seminars

Dr Daniel Bourzat, Advisor to the OIE Regional Representative for Africa, reminded the Commission that thanks to the programme of activities in Africa, financed jointly by the OIE and EU/DG-SANCO BTSF, the initial evaluations of the performance of Veterinary Services (OIE-PVS) have almost been completed, and about 20 countries have progressed along the OIE Pathway through the Gap Analyses, with support being provided in the form of round-table meetings to identify additional sources of funding to implement these strategic plans for the development of Veterinary Services.

Dr Bourzat stressed that the programme has continued to promote and support laboratory Twinning projects for priority diseases.

To conclude, Dr Bourzat informed the meeting that nine (9) workshops have been attended by more than 500 participants: Delegates, Focal Points and other animal health professionals in Africa. These workshops were all very favourably evaluated by the participants.

14. Update on ALive activities (AU-IBAR)

Dr Bruce Mukanda, Representative of AU-IBAR, explained that ALive is a multi-stakeholder platform for the development of livestock in Africa that works to reposition the African livestock sector so that it features on the development agendas of national, regional and international policy-makers. It does this by emphasising its crucial impacts on poverty alleviation and sustainable economic growth, and its overall contribution to achieving the millennium development goals (MDGs).

Dr Mukanda informed the meeting that, at its 5th general assembly, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in April 2010, ALive adopted the strategy paper, the new operational guidelines and the concept for the 2010-2012 triennial action plan (TAP).

Dr Mukanda also spoke of the achievements in 2010 and summarised the activities that had been implemented in the first semester of 2011, mentioning the organisation of the 6th general assembly in Nairobi and the mobilisation of resources to implement some activities of the TAP, among others.

15. Presentation of Dr Joseph Domenech, Vice President of Vet 2011

Dr Joseph Domenech reported on the activities planned all around the world to celebrate World Veterinary Year.

In Africa, 15 countries have organised special events for Vet 2011. There will be a total of 59 national events across the continent.

Dr Domenech invited countries to inform the OIE of any planned activities so that the information could be accessible through the Vet 2011 Website. He reminded the commission of the procedure to follow to obtain accreditation for any national event.

Finally, he referred to the different regional events organised by the OIE and FAO and invited all participants to be present and to actively participate at these important events.

16. Council update - OIE Basic Texts

After reviewing the nature of the OIE Basic Texts, Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Deputy Director General, informed Delegates from the region of the objectives of the draft texts for modernising the OIE's operation. She also described the specifics of each option, as well as the majority-voting rules for adopting them, so that Delegates would be better informed in advance of the discussions at the Administrative Session on Friday, 27 May.

17. Update on the GF-TADs mechanisms

Dr Daniel Bourzat, Advisor to the OIE Regional Representative for Africa, reported on the GF-TADs for Africa, which is currently restructuring to adapt to the internal reorganisation of FAO and to the new projects financed by the EU and managed by AU-IBAR.

Dr Bourzat explained to the Commission that there is a need to rebalance the role of the founding institutions and AU-IBAR while strictly complying with the respective institutional mandates.

Dr Bourzat considered that the principle of complementarity and shared competencies must take precedence over trying to secure leadership at any price. He remarked that the list of priority diseases must be established on the basis of scientific data and not on the views of some experts. Similarly, he stated that the control and/or eradication programmes for transboundary diseases must be defined, through a true partnership, based on recent scientific findings.

Dr Bourzat reported that the 6th GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee meeting took place in April in Nairobi (Kenya) and that the recommendations are available.

Dr Bourzat concluded that the GF-TADs for Africa must remain a platform for collaborative work between high-level experts recognised by their peers, or run the risk of failing in its mission.

18. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and Laboratory Twinning, taking into account the new process, proposed by the Council, for Collaborating Centre applications

Dr Lea Knopf from the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, presented an overview of the activities, current status and global distribution of the OIE Reference Laboratories (11 in Africa) and Collaborating Centres (3 in Africa). The Regional Commission was provided with future projections regarding the number of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres (these projections assumed that all the new proposals to be made during this General Session would be adopted by the Assembly).

The Commission was updated on the current status of the OIE Twinning Programme (18 in Africa), along with an analysis of current trends. Three OIE twinning projects have been completed, 29 are underway, and 6 have been approved by the relevant specialist Commission and are due to start.

Dr Knopf also commented on the “Reference Centre” which is a new term used to mean either “Reference Laboratory” or “Collaborating Centre”. These two entities will continue to be managed separately. For the latter, according to the streamlined procedure, support for designation as a Collaborating Centre will be sought from a relevant Regional Commission before the matter is referred to a competent Specialist Commission.

19. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region

Dr Francesco Berlingieri, Deputy Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, highlighted the importance of WAHIS reports. He reminded Delegates that reporting is an obligation according to OIE international standards. The submission of WAHIS reports is a criteria for OIE official recognition for animal disease status and Performance of Veterinary Service evaluation.

Dr Berlingieri presented the six-monthly and annual reporting situation for 2010 for countries/territories in the region and urged those who had not yet submitted parts or all of their reports to submit them as soon as possible.

Finally, Dr Berlingieri emphasised the importance of countries/territories submitting sanitary information to the OIE on a regular basis.

The meeting noted the agreement between OIE and AU IBAR to develop compatibility between WAHIS and the new IBAR information system ARIS.

20. Communication – Progress in implementation of activities in Africa

Ms Maria Zampaglione, Head of the OIE Communications Unit, addressed the meeting and commented that the OIE puts a great deal of effort into its communication actions at the international level to make policy-makers and civil society more aware of the economic and social utility of all the activities that Veterinary Services throughout the world are carrying out on a daily basis.

The Head of the Communication Unit noted that the last seminar on communication held in Africa, for French speaking countries, clearly identified the need for nominating OIE national focal points on communication and for countries to request financial and organisational support from their governments. It is important to establish a network of relevant communication experts within countries and, when relevant, within the region, or to communicate with already existing networks.

Ms Zampaglione informed the Commission that this year, a chapter on communication in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* will be proposed to Members for adoption: the full integration of communication into the Code will be an effective mechanism for creating the necessary incentive for countries and ministries to incorporate communication strategies within animal health policies.

21. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- **African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)**

Prof. Ahmed El-Sawalhy, Director General of the AU-IBAR, informed the meeting that in 2010, AU-IBAR had adopted a new Strategic Plan for 2010-2014, which had been developed in close consultation with all the RECs, Member States and its main technical partners. This plan allows AU-IBAR to be more responsive to emerging challenges. It also expresses a comprehensive view on all aspects of animal resources within the framework of CAADP.

Prof. El-Sawalhy described the achievements of AU-IBAR in 2010, highlighting the completion and closure of two major programmes: SPINAP, which pioneered the “One Health” approach and initiated the process of setting up Integrated Regional Coordination Mechanisms for the prevention and control of TADs, and SERECU, the closure of which marked the end of 60 years of fighting against rinderpest and its final eradication from the continent.

In closing, Prof. El-Sawalhy pointed out that 2011 will be marked by the start of a new major panafrikan programme entitled “Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa”, which will be implemented in partnership with RECs, the OIE and FAO and will mainly address policy and legislation issues.

- **World Bank Presentation**

Dr François Le Gall addressed the Commission as representative of the World Bank on animal health issues and as President of the OIE World Fund for Animal Health and Welfare.

Dr Le Gall commented on the commitment of the World Bank to collaborate with countries in crisis throughout the world. He made special reference to its work during the avian influenza crisis.

Dr Le Gall stressed that, for the World Bank, Africa is a priority for capacity-building activities.

Dr Le Gall also commented on the work and commitment of the World Bank regarding livestock in Africa and gave the floor to Dr Stéphane Forman, the new livestock sector representative of the World Bank in Africa.

Dr Stéphane Forman re-emphasised the importance of the activities implemented by the OIE as Global Public Goods and reiterated the World Bank’s support for these activities. He recognised the crucial work carried out by the CVOs in this regard in their respective countries, in Africa and throughout the world. Finally, he described the World Bank’s support for animal health activities and the sectors of close collaboration with the OIE in Africa at both regional and national levels.

The World Bank recognises the OIE PVS Pathway as the tool to guide investments to strengthen Veterinary Services. It is now regularly used to support the preparation of World Bank-funded projects in the agriculture and livestock sector in Africa and this was demonstrated through three examples at the country level in Burkina Faso, Namibia and Zambia. The World Bank commended the OIE for the progress made in this regard and advised the OIE Delegates to continue their efforts to make use of this important tool in the development of their national strategy for poverty reduction, food security and economic growth.

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

Dr Juan Lubroth commented that FAO's mandate is to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of populations and contribute to economic growth. It does this by gathering and distributing information related to nutrition, food, and agriculture, and making recommendations for action with respect to scientific, technological, social and economic research and the adoption of international policies on agricultural commodities. Member Countries have assigned roles to FAO with regard to animal disease risk reduction (including zoonoses).

Dr Lubroth stated that the organisation is aiming for more sustainable livestock production by contributing to improvements in animal health. He explained that actions implemented by the ECTAD units in Bamako, Nairobi, Gaborone and Tunis focus on animal health emergencies or development programmes against TADs and major zoonoses.

Dr Lubroth stressed that FAO supports partnerships with OIE, AU-IBAR and WHO on priority TADs and trypanosomosis/zoonoses in order to reduce the impact on livelihoods and public health, ensuring regional and national programmes/projects conform to CAADP.

Finally, he indicated that between 2007 and 2010, about 12 national/regional projects had been implemented for countries in Africa.

22. Other matters

Morocco's proposal – made during the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Kigali last February – to host the 21st Regional Conference, was ratified by the Commission. The Delegate of Guinea reiterated his proposal to host an OIE Regional Conference in the future. He also supported the proposal of Morocco to host the 21st Regional Conference.

Dr Ofosu from Ghana gave an honorary certificate of registration to the Director General of the OIE in appreciation of the role he played in the 5th Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference. Dr Yacouba Samaké received the certificate on behalf of Dr Vallat who, due to agenda constraints, was not able to attend the meeting.

Dr Yacouba Samaké invited all participants to attend the OIE Global Conference on "Aquatic Animal Health Programmes: their benefits for global food security" to be held in Panama from 28 to 30 June 2011.

The meeting officially ended at 6:20 pm.

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**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Paris, Monday 23 May 2011**

Programme

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Berhe Gebreegziabher, Delegate of Ethiopia and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa)
2. Speech from the secretary General of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)
3. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr Berhe Gebreegziabher, Delegate of Ethiopia and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa)
4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (Dr Berhe Gebreegziabher, Delegate of Ethiopia and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa)
5. Report of the Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and for the OIE Sub-Regional Representations in the Region as well as the Regional Animal Health Centres (Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa)
6. Progress of the regional vision and activities regarding the 5th OIE strategic plan (Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa)
7. Selection of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 81st General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2013 (Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa)
8. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2013 (Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa)
9. Recommendations of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Kigali, Rwanda from 14 to 18 February 2011. (Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa)
10. Confirmation date and venue of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa)
11. Election of a Member of the Bureau of the Regional Commission (if necessary) (Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa)
12. Outcome of the OIE PVS Pathway Regional Seminar held in Kigali, Rwanda on 14 February 2011 (Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa)
13. OIE/EC BTSF Project in Africa including focal point seminars (Dr Daniel Bourzat, Advisor to the OIE Regional Representative for Africa)
14. Update on ALive activities (AU-IBAR)
15. Presentation of Dr Joseph Domenech, Vice President of Vet 2011
16. Council update-OIE Basic Texts (Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Deputy Director General)

17. Update on the GF-TADs mechanisms (Dr Daniel Bourzat, Advisor to the OIE Regional Representative for Africa)
18. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and Laboratory Twinning, taking into account the new process, proposed by the Council, for Collaborating Centres applications (Scientific and Technical Dept.)
19. WAHIS/WAHID–Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region (Animal Health Inf. Dept.)
20. Communication – Progress in implementation of activities in Africa (Ms Maria Zampaglione, Head Communications Unit)
21. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE
 - African Union - Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)
 - World Bank
 - Union du Maghreb
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

N.B.: WAEMU and SADC will make a presentation in 2012
22. Other matters