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

Paris, 26 May 2014

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 26 May 2014 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 92 participants, including Delegates and observers from 36 Members of the Commission and 2 observer countries and representatives from 10 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Observer countries/territories: Liberia, South Sudan.

International/regional organisations: AU-IBAR³⁹, AU-PANVAC⁴⁰, CEBEVIRHA⁴¹, CIRAD⁴², FAO, ILRI, PATTEC⁴³, SADC⁴⁴, WAEMU⁴⁵, World Bank.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Theogen Rutagwenda (Rwanda), Vice-President of the Commission, and Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted. The Agenda and the annexes concerning agenda items were circulated.

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Theogen Rutagwenda, Delegate of Rwanda and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries had become a matter of concern and urged OIE Delegates from the region to follow up on their country's contribution to the OIE.

He encouraged Member Countries of the region to upgrade their contribution when possible.

³⁹ AU-IBAR: African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
⁴⁰ AU-PANVAC: African Union, Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre
⁴¹ CEBEVIRHA: Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish resources in the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC)
⁴² CIRAD: Center for International Research on Environment and Development
⁴³ PATTEC : Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign
⁴⁴ SADC: Southern African Development Community
⁴⁵ WAEMU: West African Economic and Monetary Union

Discussions

Dr Unesu Ushewokunze-Obatolu, Delegate of Zimbabwe, considered that, due to the fact that OIE Delegates reported directly to elected political leaders whose positions might often change, it was very difficult for them to guarantee the level of understanding about OIE activities.

In that regard, she expressed her great concern regarding the absence of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to the meeting of the Commission, despite the importance of that meeting. Therefore, she inquired whether that might be a reflection regarding such lack of understanding.

Finally, Dr Unesu Ushewokunze-Obatolu added that, in addition to the efforts of Delegates to influence the level of understanding of their countries regarding OIE activities, it might be necessary that the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and the Sub-Regional offices observe those difficulties and consider special measures to raise the OIE's profile and to convince governments on the importance of actively participating in OIE activities.

Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, agreed with the Delegate of Zimbabwe regarding the difficulties Delegates could face in ensuring that funds for OIE activities are systematically earmarked in their countries' national budgets, enabling arrears to be paid and OIE contributions upgraded, where possible. However, Dr Samaké pointed out that Delegates were the OIE's main representatives in their countries and that the OIE gives Delegates the lead to ensure that their countries comply with their responsibilities to the organisation such as the payment of contributions. Therefore, Dr Samaké said that the OIE was always willing to assist Delegates whenever necessary to comply with their obligations. In that sense he commented that, in all meetings with political authorities of Member Countries, the OIE endeavours to underline the importance of Members Countries' active participation in OIE activities as well as the importance of paying contributions.

3. Report on OIE Council meetings

Dr Botlhe M. Modisane, Delegate of South Africa and member of the OIE Council, began his presentation by describing the composition of the Council. He also made special reference to the OIE's 90th anniversary.

He commented on Council matters of general interest, including: the need of a partial election in 2014 of a new member of the OIE Council to represent the Africa region; the agreement to present a draft resolution to the World Assembly of Delegates proposing the creation of two new categories of extraordinary contributions in order to increase the OIE's general budget; the selection of the Technical Item II (without a questionnaire) of the current General Session entitled "African swine fever: new challenges and measures to prevent its spread"; and the validated list of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories to be presented for endorsement by the OIE World Assembly of Delegates.

Dr Modisane also indicated that the Council had examined the applications for accession of South Sudan and Liberia as new OIE Member Countries with a favourable opinion.

He concluded by commenting on the expectations of the OIE Council regarding the commitment of OIE Delegates highlighting the importance of their involvement in all OIE activities and providing input on the various issues discussed in order to guide Council meetings and ensure that all Member Countries' needs be addressed properly.

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

Dr Theogen Rutagwenda, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, on behalf of Dr Marosi Molomo, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, who had been unable to attend the General Session, started the presentation by extending a warm welcome to all new OIE Delegates in the region.

He gave a brief review of the last meeting of the Regional Commission, held at the 81st General Session, on Monday 27 May 2013. He reported that it had been attended by 94 participants, including Delegates and observers from 38 Members of the Commission and 3 observer countries, including Liberia. He also described the agenda and the main items discussed.

Dr Rutagwenda then reminded Delegates of the composition of the Members of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa and representatives of the region in the OIE Council and Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases. He informed participants that Professor Jaouad Berrada, former Delegate of Morocco, had resigned as Delegate in August 2013, leaving vacant the position of Vice-President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, this justifying the election for that position, as well as for the position of Member of the Council.

Dr Rutagwenda said that, since 2009, Africa's common position had been successfully coordinated by AU-IBAR. In his view, this had enabled Africa to speak with one voice and hence contribute to enriched discussions at OIE General Sessions. As a good example, he cited the proposed changes to the OIE Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes by the African region.

He discussed the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in Morocco in February 2015, inviting all Delegates to attend.

He then gave a brief review of the different regional activities, highlighting those relating to veterinary education and Veterinary Statutory Bodies and to the promotion of twinning projects in these fields, as well as activities relating to: the "Reinforcement of African Governance" (VET-GOV) Programme; advancing the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP); and providing ongoing promotion and support for Veterinary Services through the OIE PVS Pathway.

Dr Rutagwenda concluded by encouraging countries to increase their participation in OIE activities and stressed on the utmost importance of Member Countries to implement OIE international standards in line with the OIE Strategic Plan. He highlighted the importance of statutory contributions to the OIE, and increasing them if any possible. Finally, he reiterated the importance of a common position for Africa to enable the continent to speak as much as possible with one voice.

5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and the OIE Sub-Regional Representations for Southern Africa, North Africa, and Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa

Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, on behalf of all OIE Representatives in the region, provided a summary of the activities carried out by the Regional Representation and the three OIE Sub-Regional Representations for Africa between 1 January and 1 May 2014, and their planned activities for the rest of the year.

Regarding human resources, he said that the period covered by the report had been marked by the departure of: Dr Florência Cipriano, Deputy Regional Representative for Africa; Dr Antonio Petrini, Programme Officer from the Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa in Tunis; Mrs Youma N'Diaye, accountant, and Mrs Mariam Minta, secretary, both

from the Regional Representation. This had been followed by the arrival of Dr Alessandro Ripani, Programme Officer at the Sub-Regional Representation in Tunis, and Mr Abdramane Sanogo, accountant at the Regional Representation.

Dr Samaké then spoke of the collaboration between the OIE, FAO, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), AU-IBAR, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and countries on the development of continental or regional control strategies, especially for foot and mouth disease (FMD), peste des petits ruminants (PPR), African swine fever (ASF), contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and Newcastle disease. He mentioned the first inter-regional meeting (Middle East and North Africa) on FMD-PPR and the implementation of the PPR pilot project in Burkina Faso and Ghana financed by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (Vaccine Standards and Pilot Approach to PPR Control in Africa (VSPA)).

He also discussed continued implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway and its associated programmes (Twinning, support for the modernisation of veterinary legislation, support for the organisation of round tables), as well as the involvement of all African Members in the OIE PVS Pathway.

Dr Samaké then spoke of the appropriation of the results of activities (especially the OIE PVS Pathway and other capacity-building activities) by individual countries (substantial increase in the national budget allocated to Veterinary Services: Benin, Senegal, Togo, Niger, among others), by Economic Communities (e.g. WAEMU technical and financial support in implementing activities and its responsibility for activities requiring a regional approach, such as harmonisation of veterinary pharmaceutical legislation and the CBPP and Newcastle disease control strategy), and by development partners (World Bank in the case of Mali; European Union in the case of Kenya; Belgian Cooperation in the case of Mozambique).

He gave an account of support provided to countries in different areas, including: the OIE PVS Pathway; notification to the OIE of relevant epidemiological events; and regular payment of country contributions to the OIE. This had involved courtesy visits to Kenya, Mali and Comoros.

Dr Samaké mentioned the Support Programme for Pastoralism in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal), pointing out that the component one of the programme regarding animal health would be implemented by ECOWAS/CILSS⁴⁶ with the technical support of the OIE.

He remarked on the consolidation of existing networks, including the Mediterranean Animal Health Network (REMESA) and Mediterranean Network of Establishments for Veterinary Education (REEV-Med), and the establishment of new networks such as: the veterinary laboratory network for avian influenza and other transboundary diseases (RESOLAB) and regional network of national epidemicsurveillance systems (RESEPI) in Central Africa; Southern and Eastern Africa Association of Veterinary Educational Establishments (SEAAVEE); and the South African Development Community's Livestock Technical Committee (LTC/SADC).

He informed Delegates that the OIE Council had approved a cooperation agreement between the OIE and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and that an updated cooperation agreement between the OIE and AU-IBAR would be submitted soon.

⁴⁶ ECOWAS/CILSS: Economic Community Of West African States/ Permanent Interstate Committee for drought control in the Sahel

Dr Samaké was pleased to announce that applications for accession to the OIE by Liberia and South Sudan had been considered favourably by a meeting of the OIE Council.

He said that the Regional Animal Health Centre in Bamako had been consolidated (visit by the Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS] Commissioner) and that the establishment of a Regional Animal Health Centre in Central Africa is still waiting final political decision.

He mentioned a preparatory mission for the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, to be held in Rabat from 16 to 20 February, 2015.

Lastly, Dr Samaké gave a brief review of the work programme of the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations covering the period from 1 May to 31 December, 2014.

He highlighted a number of activities: the annual coordination meeting for chief veterinary officers (concerning standards to be examined at the 82nd General Session), organised by AU-IBAR; the 82nd General Session of the World Assembly of OIE Delegates and bilateral meetings on the fringes of the General Session; support for applications by Liberia and South Sudan for accession to the OIE; statutory meetings of GF-TADs for Africa Regional Steering Committee, GF-TADs Global Steering Committee and VET-GOV; participation in OIE global conferences; continued implementation of the PPR pilot project; planning for the Support Programme for Pastoralism in the Sahel; development of continental or regional strategies under the GF-TADs for Africa Five-Year Action Plan, notably for FMD, PPR, ASF, CBPP and Newcastle disease; the meeting on FMD and PPR disease status, coupled with a PPR control strategy in North Africa; and a meeting on rabies in North Africa. He also discussed: the 'One Health' approach; pilot activities, including control of rabies, Rift Valley fever (seminar on Rift Valley fever prevention in North Africa) and antimicrobial resistance; raising countries' awareness of the OIE PVS Pathway; reporting epidemiological events to the OIE; regular payment of OIE contributions; and activities to build stakeholder capacity, including the seminar on rabies in Niger, a planned seminar on food safety and activities to improve the governance of Veterinary Services in Africa (VET-GOV project); the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa; World Rabies Day on 28 September, 2014; and the Annual Meeting of Regional and Sub-Regional Representations in Paris in October, 2014.

Discussions

The Delegate of Senegal wondered whether the OIE could raise the awareness of more Member Country governments regarding the importance of ensuring that the OIE Delegate's position should be a stable one, as this was the only way to ensure proper implementation of OIE activities.

The Delegate of Mauritania said that it was very difficult for some countries in the Region to increase their category of contributions to the OIE. He suggested that the OIE seek a possible solution to the problem of countries with long-term arrears because most of these countries experienced financial difficulties.

In response to the Delegate of Mauritania, Dr Eloit pointed out that the OIE is virtually the only organisation to allow its Member Countries to choose their category of contribution. She explained that, when increasing contributions, the OIE takes into account higher expenses to be faced. She stressed that the OIE always requests Council approval before increasing contributions. She then reminded participants that contributions had not been increased in either 2012 or 2013. Lastly she said that the OIE is open to discussion with any countries finding it difficult to pay their contributions in order to seek a solution. She added that the most important thing was for such countries to show their willingness and intent to resolve that situation. She also added that the amount of OIE contributions is extremely low comparing to other international organisations.

6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 84th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2016

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 84th General Session:

- “Defining a strategy to achieve freedom from tsetse fly and trypanosomosis in Africa”

7. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

After an animated discussion involving several Delegates, a small group comprising the Delegates of Burkina Faso, Rwanda and Tunisia was appointed to finalise the proposal of technical item.

The following technical item (without questionnaire) is proposed for the 21st Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa:

- “Cross border movements of animals and animal products and their relevance to the epidemiology of animal diseases in Africa”

8. Election of a representative of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in the OIE Council and election of the Vice-President of the World Assembly of Delegates

Dr Theogen Rutagwenda, Delegate of Rwanda and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, first reminded participants that the Delegate of Morocco had stepped down, leaving vacant his position as representative of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on the OIE Council, which required an election to be held.

Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Deputy Director General, then indicated, to the Regional Commission, the institutional rules regarding election of members to the OIE Council. She also provided some consideration points to take into account when electing a Delegate as a member of one of the OIE’s statutory bodies. Among these points, she highlighted the importance of considering the stability of the selected Delegate’s position in his or her country as well as the sub-regional balance of Delegates selected, which is mainly reflected by the languages. She underlined the fact that, during the current meeting, Delegates would have to reach a consensus in order to present their candidate to the World Assembly of Delegates on Friday. She reminded participants that it is the World Assembly that takes the final decision on the composition of the Council, based on the advice of the Regional Commission.

Following a discussion involving several Delegates regarding the outcomes of the Chief Veterinary Officers’ meeting in Nairobi, and in the light of the procedure described by Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Deputy Director General, Dr Nicholas Kauta, Delegate of Uganda, was unanimously proposed as Member of the OIE Council.

Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane, Delegate of South Africa, already Member of the OIE Council, was proposed as Vice-President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates.

These proposals will be presented to the World Assembly for endorsement by vote.

9. Report on the OIE high-health, high-performance horse (HHP) concept

Dr Susanne Münstermann, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began her presentation by referring to the significant worldwide growth of the sport horse industry, bringing with it measurable and significant socio-economic benefits to the respective national economies.

She explained that the OIE has engaged, for the past two years, in the development of the high health, high performance horse (HHP) concept to facilitate the safe international movement of horses to compete at international equestrian events. She noted that the concept excludes international movement for the purpose of breeding.

She noted that the concept is based on principles that are already well established in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, with special reference to the Chapters on (i) Identification and traceability; (ii) zoning and compartmentalisation; (iii) model passport for competition horses; (iv) certification procedures; and, (v) transport by air, land and sea. Furthermore, comprehensive biosecurity guidelines for HHP horses at their home stable, during transport and at the venue are being developed.

Dr Münstermann then informed participants that the OIE has laid down these general overarching principles for the HHP concept in a new *Code* chapter, in line with the approach that had been previously taken when introducing Animal Welfare chapters into the *Code*.

Dr Münstermann added that acceptance of these general principles by OIE Member Countries would provide the OIE ad hoc Group with a clear vision to propose the tools necessary to build the framework for the HHP concept, e.g. additional guidelines.

Dr Münstermann concluded by acknowledging the special situation of many countries in Africa due to the endemic presence of African Horse Sickness.

She noted that the OIE ad hoc Group will give special attention to this situation and will make provision in the HHP concept for horses from AHS affected countries. In this regard a meeting with South African representatives and OIE experts will take place during the current General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates.

Dr Gideon Brückner, President of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases, provided further background on the development of the proposed *Code* Chapter. He explained that the draft was confined strictly to describing the concept and that all pertinent questions and concerns would be addressed by future expert group meetings and Specialist Commissions, and presented to Members.

He added that the OIE had taken the same approach when presenting the Guiding Principles on Animal Welfare to Members.

He explained that details of the various activities, including a description of the sub-population, certification, diagnosis, testing and transport, would be part of an international biosecurity plan to be prepared by the private sector in consultation with Members, which would be based on the OIE's biosecurity guidelines.

He suggested that, when implementing compartmentalisation in their territories, Members use the same approach to develop their biosecurity plan, based on the OIE's biosecurity guidelines.

Finally, Dr Brückner said that Delegates would have the opportunity to raise points and concerns later during the current General Session as part of the standard-setting process.

10. Organisation of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in Rabat (Morocco) from 16 to 20 February 2015

Dr Abderrahman El Abrak, Delegate of Morocco, expressed his country's sincere gratitude to the OIE and to all Delegates of the region for their vote of confidence in Morocco to host the upcoming Regional Conference. He reiterated that his country was willing and honoured to hold this important regional event and invited all Delegates to attend the conference in Rabat in February 2015.

He gave a general description of Morocco and the city of Rabat.

He also gave a brief account of the different actions that Morocco had undertaken to start organising the conference. He mentioned that, last February, there had been a preparatory mission to Rabat by the OIE Regional Representation accompanied by OIE Headquarters representatives.

To conclude, Dr El Abrak provided general information about hotel accommodation and transport, giving assurances that full details would be sent to all participants in a timely manner.

He ended by presenting a video introducing the participants to Morocco and more particularly Rabat.

11. Sixth OIE Strategic Plan – Regional perspectives

Dr Botlhe M. Modisane, Delegate of South Africa and member of the Council, gave the Commission a brief presentation on the development of the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan for the 2016-2020 period. He informed Delegates that a preliminary version of the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan had been drafted on the basis of discussions at the previous Council meetings (October 2013 and February 2014).

He reminded participants that the draft had been forwarded to all OIE Delegates in early May 2014 to enable them to submit comments and observations to Council Members in their region.

Dr Modisane emphasised that the aim of his presentation was to summarise the key information regarding the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan in order to start discussions among Delegates with the aim of finalising the Strategic Plan over forthcoming Council meetings. He said that the final text would be circulated among Member Countries for comments in March 2015 with a view to its adoption at the 83rd General Session in May 2015.

He reiterated that the OIE Council considered that the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan should:

- contain a revised consolidated statement of OIE's strategic vision and its global goals;
- take into account current and anticipated global trends and challenges affecting OIE's operating environment;
- incorporate important cross-cutting issues;
- be ambitious but not necessarily expansive;
- be high-level, flexible and enabling rather than prescriptive, and allow for optional approaches in order to be responsive and facilitate implementation; and
- be developed with the engagement of all Members of the OIE.

Dr Modisane explained that this topic would be included in the agenda of all OIE Council meetings and OIE Regional Conferences to be held over the coming year.

He reported that, in October 2013, the OIE Council had reviewed the Strategic Objectives and discussed factors expected to impact on the operating environment during the 2016-2020 period, as well as organisational dynamics and institutional arrangements, including the duties and relevance of the current Specialist Commissions and Working Groups, the operation of Regional and Sub Regional Representations, and relationships and synergies with other international organisations. He said that the OIE Council would also be establishing a flexible five-year strategic human resources plan for the recruitment, retention and development of OIE staff.

Dr Modisane concluded by inviting Delegates to provide their thoughts and comments on the initial framework and directions for the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan. He emphasised that Members' comments were most welcome and highly valued and said that Members could provide their input to the OIE Director General and to OIE Council members representing Africa region.

12. Implementation of the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme in Africa

Dr David Sherman, Coordinator of the OIE Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP), briefly described the development of VLSP, with a focus on recent developments in Africa.

Dr Sherman emphasised the importance of comprehensive veterinary legislation as a foundation for the effective operation of national Veterinary Services and the need for veterinarians and legal experts to work closely to produce modern, high quality veterinary legislation.

He reviewed important VLSP activities in Africa, including: the first OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation, held in Djerba (Tunisia) on December 2010; the first pilot training seminar, targeting the 15 SADC countries, held in Gaborone (Botswana) in November 2011; the second training seminar held for ECOWAS countries in Cotonou (Benin) in January 2013; and two workshops on veterinary legislation sponsored by AU-IBAR through VET-GOV – the first in Arusha (Tanzania) for English-speaking countries in October 2013 and the second in Naivasha (Kenya) for French-speaking countries.

Dr Sherman went on to discuss OIE's anticipated future activities for veterinary legislation to be pursued through VET-GOV. The OIE is planning a series of regional workshops to build capacity for drafting quality legislation and to promote regional harmonisation of such legislation. The seminars are to be conducted in the context of the RECs. Each seminar is to focus on different veterinary themes, including: regulating the profession; animal disease control; food safety; and regulation of veterinary medicinal products. Veterinarians and legal experts will be invited from each participating country. The week-long workshops will include: presentations on the principles of drafting legislation; assessments of exemplary legislation relating to specific themes; analysis of existing legislation on each theme from participating countries; and, finally, exercises in drafting a regional bill on each theme. Multiple regional workshops are expected to be held over the next two years for both French-speaking and English-speaking Regional Economic Communities, and it is foreseen that participating countries will be involved in workshops covering at least two veterinary themes.

In anticipation of effective participation in these workshops, Dr Sherman concluded by encouraging Delegates from countries that have not yet done so to request an OIE veterinary legislation identification mission to assess the current status of veterinary legislation in their country.

13. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of Notification by Members in Africa

Dr Lina Awada, Veterinary Epidemiologist, OIE Animal Health Information Department, gave a brief update of the most relevant topics on animal disease notification concerning the Region.

She started by emphasising the importance of timely disease reporting through WAHIS by the countries/territories, and of the provision of other epidemiological information on disease prevention and control, to maintain transparency, to enhance trade and to contribute to the global early warning. She then went on to provide relevant information on compliance with reporting for 2013 in Africa.

Dr Awada also showed the evolution of the number of countries from the Region submitting reports to the OIE since 2005 as well as the evolution of submission time since 2005, separately for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases.

Finally, Dr Awada presented the recent exceptional events of foot and mouth disease in Africa.

14. 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 of AU-IBAR, updated the meeting on AU-IBAR achievements in animal health and World Trade Organization sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) matters. He said that strengthening animal health systems remained a major strategic objective of AU-IBAR, with a strong focus on policy, legislation and institutional reforms.

He said that the disease-surveillance and control capacity of RECs and IGAD had been built, in particular with two new projects in this area. He added that support had been provided to RECs to mobilise the necessary resources to implement the Integrated Regional Coordination Mechanism (IRCM) for the control of transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses in Africa and to build capacity and consensus on the One Health concept in Africa. The Pan African PPR Progressive Control programme is being customised by RECs and member states and is awaiting funding. According to Prof. El-Sawalhy, a strategy to control ASF in Africa is being developed jointly with FAO and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).

Prof. El-Sawalhy reported that trade and marketing activities focused mainly on animal health certification, identification and traceability, and support to stakeholder organisations. However AU-IBAR also remained heavily committed to the process of supporting and enhancing the participation of African nations in the OIE standard-setting process, among others.

He also reported that the Animal Resources Information System (ARIS) had been rolled out in over 30 countries, highlighting the fact that member states had benefited from advance training in data collection and management and that inter-operability with WAHIS was in the way to be completed.

Prof. El-Sawalhy concluded by saying that formulation of the livestock development strategy under the leadership of AU-IBAR was on track and was undergoing a process of intensive consultations and securing the ownership and participation of all stakeholders. It is expected to be adopted by the African Union Summit in January 2015.

- **Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish resources in CEMAC (CEBEVIRHA)**

The representative of CEBEVIRHA started his presentation by providing details of his organisation. He described CEBEVIRHA's missions, which are mainly to contribute to the sustainable, harmonised and balanced development of the livestock, fishery and aquaculture sectors, and to growth in trade, to enable countries to optimise production to achieve food security and reduce poverty among the populations of the sub-region.

He also gave details of CEBEVIRHA's objectives, which include: supporting the quantitative and qualitative development of the livestock, fishery and aquaculture sectors; developing and harmonising trade; and harmonising and coordinating the livestock, fishery and aquaculture policies contained in Member States' development plans.

Finally, he summarised the status of implementation of CEBEVIRHA activities.

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

On behalf of Dr Cheikh Ly, FAO Regional Animal Health and Production Officer, Dr Juan Lubroth, FAO's Chief Veterinary Officer, reviewed FAO's outreach to Africa and the renewed partnership in animal health. Dr Lubroth reported that FAO had been implementing country and regional projects in the Africa region at the request of countries and regional bodies in various areas, in addition to pursuing its early-warning and capacity-building work under the Emergency Prevention System-Animal Health (EMPRES-AH) and missions relating to FAO's rapid response mechanism for transboundary animal disease emergencies, the Crisis Management Centre - Animal Health (CMC-AH). He added that action had taken place in the mainstream of FAO's five strategic objectives, regional initiatives and support to the CAADP framework.

Dr Lubroth briefly reviewed the lessons learned, in particular: (a) the need for stronger livestock production and health policies regionally in order to contribute globally; (b) if the livestock sector continues to grow in an unregulated fashion, the risk of diseases impacting on health will undoubtedly grow; and (c) promotion and support to apprise the private sector (producers, veterinary practitioners, value chain actors) of best practices for production and health, disease prevention, reporting and partnership with the public sector are essential and should not be downgraded in favour of the public sector alone.

- **Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC)**

Dr Hassane H. Mahamat, African Union PATTEC Coordinator, said that the AU-PATTEC Coordination Office is responsible for coordinating and implementing PATTEC, in line with its mandate and role.

He added that, within this context, the coordination office had been actively engaged in efforts to develop an enduring mechanism through which countries can implement the PATTEC initiative successfully. Tsetse- and trypanosomiasis-affected countries and AU-PATTEC have used such resources as national budgetary contributions, loans, grants and technical support from relevant partners to achieve major results.

Dr Hassane H. Mahamat briefly presented a report covering the 2012-2014 period and summarised progress in implementing activities and achievements in such areas as coordination, proposal development, training, advocacy and resource mobilisation, in an effort to alleviate the burden of tsetse and trypanosomiasis in Africa through the African Union.

- **Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (PANVAC)**

Dr Karim Tounkara, Director of AU-PANVAC, said that, in line with its mandate, AU-PANVAC provided satisfactory services to African Union member states. He reported on the different activities of AU-PANVAC, underlining that the number of vaccine batches received had increased. A total of 288 samples had been tested in 2013, compared with 142 batches in 2012. Vaccine seeds (162) had been sent to vaccine-producing laboratories. Training and technical assistance had been provided to laboratory technicians of African Union member states and other stakeholders in the field of vaccine production and vaccine quality control.

Dr Tounkara reported that the harmonisation of veterinary vaccine registration had been facilitated in East and West Africa.

He added that the first batch of reagents to conduct indirect enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for detecting PPR virus antibodies had been produced and sent to laboratories in African Union member states for field validation.

Dr Tounkara said that all rinderpest materials were kept in safe custody in a biosafety level 3 laboratories, including an emergency rinderpest vaccine bank containing 1.5 million doses and 300 phials of rinderpest vaccine seed.

Dr Tounkara concluded by reporting that the scheduled activities under programme budget projects had been implemented successfully. The main ones were: developing a strategic framework for biological reagent production in Africa; OIE sub-grant to AU-PANVAC to guarantee the quality of PPR vaccines produced in Africa; and supporting food security and capacity-building in African Union member states through the sustainable control of Newcastle disease in village chickens.

- **Southern African Development Community (SADC)**

Mr Beedeeanan Hulman, Senior Programme Officer at SADC, started his presentation by explaining that the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate of the SADC Secretariat implements strategies and programmes to promote agricultural and livestock productivity and food security region-wide.

He said that, to this end, the FANR Directorate emphasises cooperation in sustainable food security in order to achieve sustainable access to safe and adequate food at all times by all people in SADC for an active and healthy life. Mr Hulman added that the FANR Directorate had finalised the Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP, 2013), which provides the overall framework under which FANR programmes and activities will contribute to executing the SADC Common Agenda for promoting sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development.

He added that RAP focuses on implementing the Regional Livestock Development Programme, which seeks to improve regional and international trade in livestock products and their market access. Mr Hulman pointed out that, to facilitate trade in agricultural products, the SADC Protocol on Trade had been amended to take into account the requirements of the World Trade Organization's SPS Agreement.

He also reported that SADC, with the assistance of development partners, had embarked on a regional capacity-building programme to improve compliance with standards and norms for trade in livestock and livestock products.

Mr Hulman concluded by saying that the SADC Secretariat wished to bring the following two concerns to the OIE's attention.

- Freedom from bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE): SADC member states are still considered to have “undetermined BSE risk” status for trade in deboned muscle meat and are required to carry out BSE surveillance and tests in order to prove freedom from the disease. Given that BSE has not occurred in any SADC member state, SADC wishes the OIE to consider the claim of SADC member states for historical freedom from BSE.
 - Revised FMD chapter: SADC submitted comments on the revised FMD chapter and hopes that they will be taken into account during the revision process. SADC wishes to reiterate that the SADC region finds itself in a unique situation with regard to FMD control because of the presence of the wild buffalo, which is a healthy carrier of the SAT virus. The recent drive to turn vast areas of the region into transfrontier conservation areas (TFCAs), as a biodiversity conservation initiative, will increase contact between wildlife and domestic livestock. This will make FMD control even more challenging than before. When implementing the OIE/FAO Global Foot and Mouth Disease Control Strategy, special consideration will need to be given to FMD management and control in the SADC region.
- **West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)**

Dr Soumana Diallo, representative of the WAEMU Commission, reported that, in connection with implementing the WAEMU Agricultural Policy (WAP), the WAEMU Commission had embarked on a number of reforms in the field of animal health, including zoonoses and food safety.

He explained that, first and foremost, the reforms concerned the harmonisation of veterinary pharmaceutical legislation, which has helped to achieve major results, the most significant being: the adoption of a package of community legislation for all eight member states; the introduction of a single mechanism in the eight member states for the registration of veterinary medicinal products; the introduction of a community-wide mechanism for the quality control of veterinary medicinal products, by setting up a

network of nine national quality control laboratories; the introduction of a mechanism to coordinate the production of regulations: the WAEMU Veterinary Committee, which is tasked with giving technical opinions on all matters of community interest in the field of livestock production, including veterinary medicinal products; and the introduction of a mechanism for the surveillance of veterinary medicinal products, with the launch of veterinary pharmaceutical inspection.

The second area of reform was to build the capacity of Veterinary Services through the adoption of a WAEMU strategic plan to strengthen the Veterinary Services of member states.

A further reform related to the safety of animals and animal-derived foodstuffs, which had led to the adoption of a common regulation on sanitary safety in 2007: Regulation No. 07/2007/CM/WAEMU on the health safety of plants, animals and foodstuffs.

He went on to discuss the reform of support projects for the control and eradication of animal diseases. Through the Regional Fund for Agricultural Development (RFAD), the WAEMU Commission supports its member states in the control of certain animal diseases (anthrax, Newcastle disease). It has also commissioned two studies to devise a regional strategy and coordinated control programmes for CBPP and Newcastle disease.

Lastly, he referred to the adoption of a directive aimed at guaranteeing and organising the freedom of movement and right of establishment within WAEMU of veterinarians who are nationals of another WAEMU member state and at establishing a College of Presidents of national veterinary associations that will now be responsible for regulating veterinary practice within the WAEMU area. The implementing text on the membership, powers, organisation and operating procedures of the College of Presidents has just been signed.

- **World Bank**

Dr Stephane Forman, the World Bank's representative for Africa, highlighted the steadily increasing collaboration between the World Bank and its partners involved in livestock development and animal health, especially the OIE, and described how the World Bank is strongly re-engaging in supporting the pastoral economy and resilience. He started by introducing Myriam Chaudron, the new Veterinarian and Livestock Specialist seconded to the World Bank to support him in managing the animal production and health portfolio in Sub-Saharan Africa.

He then discussed pastoralism, which is the extensive, mobile rearing of livestock on communal rangelands and is the prevailing livelihood and production system practised in the world's arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs). He highlighted the fact that, according to recent estimates, there are around 120 million pastoralists/agro-pastoralists worldwide, 50 million of whom reside in Sub-Saharan Africa. In the Horn of Africa, ASALs represent more than 60% of the total area, where the pastoral population is estimated to number between 12 million and 22 million and animals and their products are for self-consumption, sale in national markets or export to the growing coastal cities. In West Africa, they account for up to 65% of the beef supply. Worldwide, pastoralists constitute one of the poorest population sub-groups. The incidence of extreme poverty among African pastoralists ranges from 25% to 55%.

Dr Forman added that the recurrent food security crises in the Horn of Africa and the security situation in the Sahel are stark reminders that the root causes of vulnerability in ASALs need more attention. Requests from countries and Regional Economic Commissions had prompted the World Bank's strong re-engagement in supporting the development of pastoral areas, in line with pillar 3 (equity) of its Global Agenda for

livestock. This had led to major analytical studies, as well as to two flagship regional operations: the Horn of Africa Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project (approved by the Board in March 2014) and the Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Project, which is in the early stages of preparation.

In Dr Forman’s view, by enhancing the ability of Veterinary Services to deliver animal health services to mobile communities in dry areas, these two operations will play a key role in ensuring that the projects achieve their objectives. The OIE PVS pathway remains the core pre-operation tool for guiding investments to strengthen these Veterinary Services. Surveillance and control of transboundary, zoonotic and productivity-affecting animal diseases, including through harmonised vaccination campaigns, will indeed help to increase the resilience of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities to external shocks and to improve their market access. For this, collaboration with and support from international technical organisations, such as the OIE, FAO or AU-IBAR, will be crucial to building the capacity of countries and RECs and achieving our goal. The World Bank representative re-emphasised the importance of OIE activities as Global Public Goods and reiterated the World Bank’s support for it. He recognised the crucial work conducted by the Chief Veterinary Officers in this regard in their respective countries, both in Africa and worldwide.

The meeting officially ended at 7:00 p.m.

.../Appendix

Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Paris, 26 May 2014**

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE
3. Report on OIE Council meetings
4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa
5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and the OIE Sub-Regional Representations for Southern Africa, North Africa, and Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa
6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 84th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2016
7. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa
8. Election of a representative of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in the OIE Council and election of the Vice-President of the World Assembly of Delegates
9. Report on the OIE high-health, high-performance horse (HHP) concept
10. Organisation of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in Rabat (Morocco) from 16 to 20 February 2015
11. Sixth OIE Strategic Plan – Regional perspectives
12. Implementation of the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme in Africa
13. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of Notification by Members in Africa
14. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE
 - African Union - Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)
 - Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish resources in CEMAC (CEBEVIRHA)
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
 - Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC)
 - Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (PANVAC)
 - Southern African Development Community (SADC)
 - West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)
 - World Bank



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