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

Paris, 25 May 2009

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 25 May 2009 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 112 Delegates and observers from 35 Members of the Commission and 1 observer country, and representatives from 9 international and regional organisations:

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

Observer countries/territories: France

International/regional organisations: AU-IBAR¹, CEBEVIRHA², EC³, ECOWAS⁴, EISMV⁵, FAO⁶, SADC⁷, WAEMU⁸, World Bank

The meeting was chaired by Dr William Olaho-Mukani (Uganda), Vice-President of the Commission and Dr Abdoulaye Bouna Niang, OIE Regional Representative for Africa.

Dr Niang started by congratulating and thanking Dr Robert S. Thwala (Swaziland), the past President of the Commission and Delegate of Swaziland, for all his work.

He presented apologies for the absence of most of the Members of the Bureau. Dr Bangoura (Guinea) Vice-President, and Dr Fall (Mauritania) Secretary General, were not available to attend the General Session.

¹ AU-IBAR: African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

² CEBEVIRHA: Commission économique du bétail, de la viande et des ressources halieutiques (Economic Commission of Livestock, Meat and Fishery Resources)

³ EC : European Commission

⁴ ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States

⁵ EISMV: *Ecole inter-États des sciences et médecine vétérinaires* (Inter-State School of Veterinary Science and Medicine, Senegal)

⁶ FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

⁷ SADC: Southern African Development Community

⁸ WAEMU: West-African Economic and Monetary Union

Dr Niang also congratulated Dr Joseph Domenech who will shortly be retiring from the FAO.

He also mentioned and congratulated Dr Ahmed El-Sawalhy, who has been elected Director of the AU-IBAR.

The Vice-President of the Commission, Dr Olaho-Mukani, welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of regional and international organisations.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

2. Administrative Commission update

Dr Rachid Bouguedour, member of the Administrative Commission and Delegate of Algeria, reported on the matters discussed at Commission meetings. He made special reference to the updating of the OIE Basic Texts and the 5th Strategic Plan.

3. Contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Rachid Bouguedour, reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries are a matter for concern.

He said that all contribution reminders have been sent out on time and that it is very important that countries promptly settle their arrears if they have any.

He congratulated countries that have returned their contributions to the OIE on time and encouraged remaining countries to do the same.

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

Dr Olaho-Mukani reported on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa. The report was approved.

5. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa. New Sub-Regional Office-Regional Animal Health Centers

Dr Abdoulaye Bouna Niang, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, reported on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa.

He summarised the work done by the Representation during 2008 and the planned activities for 2009. These activities are designed to enable the Representation to accomplish its obligations and to continue with the implementation of the 4th OIE Strategic Plan.

He remarked that the activities of the Regional Representation also take into account the guidance of the ALive platform, now under the auspices of the African Union. These activities are also complemented (through the Global Framework for Transboundary Animal Diseases [GF-TADs] for Africa and the animal health component of the Common Agricultural Policy of the African Union) by the work of the CAADP (Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme).

Dr Niang briefly mentioned the objectives of the GF-TADs for Africa and the principal activities developed in order to fight against major animal diseases, including zoonoses. The OIE regional representation for Africa provides the secretariat of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Africa.

He made special reference to the work of the Regional Animal Health Center (RAHC) regarding the promotion of health policy and the fight against animal diseases.

He also mentioned the support of the Regional Economic Communities to the RAHC.

Dr Niang said that the core activities of the Representation were providing support to the RAHC; participating in the re-establishment and operation of RESEPI (the Regional Network of National Epidemiological Surveillance Systems for HPAI and Other Priority Animal Diseases in West Africa) in West and Central Africa; participating in the establishment of RESOLAB (*Le Réseau Ouest et Centre Africain des laboratoires vétérinaires de diagnostic de l'influenza aviaire et des autres maladies transfrontalières*); and the organising of and participation in different Regional Seminars, such as the Good Governance seminar.

Dr Niang thanked Dr Nicolas Denormandie, who has now left the OIE Regional Representation, for all his work.

Regarding the programme of activities for 2009, Dr Niang informed the Delegates that they are planned with the aim of strengthening the results achieved in 2008. More activities will be planned, especially in terms of technical governance (particularly in the fields of animal health and zoonoses, veterinary public health and animal welfare).

He also reminded the meeting that the main points of the 4th OIE Strategic Plan were:

- Dissemination of timely and accurate information on animal diseases, including zoonoses,
- Development and implementation of standards based on scientific criteria,
- Prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases, including zoonoses,
- Capacity building,
- Strengthening OIE influence regarding policy, research and governance in the fields of animal health and animal welfare.

The report was approved.

6. Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa

Dr Bonaventure J. Mtei, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Southern Africa, reported on the activities of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa (OIE SRR-SA).

He started by making reference to the establishment of the Sub-Regional Representation in January 2006, and to the financial assistance that had made it possible (the SADC-EU Grant Contribution Agreement with the OIE).

He commented on the numerous accomplishments of the OIE SRR-SA over the three years of its existence. These included setting up a fully functional office environment; helping Member States to improve their national disease surveillance systems and ensure compatibility and compliance with the OIE WAHIS system for disease notification; encouraging nearly all SADC Member States to apply for the OIE PVS Assessments; taking part in World Rabies Day events; and supporting two OIE Twinning Agreements that benefited national laboratories in Botswana and South Africa.

Dr Mtei briefly named the different activities in which the OIE SRR-SA has been involved. They included: participation in and support for different meetings, seminars and workshops; the foundation of a laboratory training course on RVF diagnosis; several country visits; many capacity building activities; the launching of the English version of the OIE Africa website (www.rr-africa.oie.int); training of new OIE Delegates; seminars for the National OIE Focal Points; and logistical and financial support for many different activities.

He congratulated Dr Patrick Bastiaensen for his excellent work and his contribution to the development of the activities of the SRR.

He remarked that the OIE SRR-SA will continue to support and participate more proactively in the OIE PVS Assessments of SADC Member States and in the follow-up PVS Gap Analysis missions.

He commented on the recruitment of Dr Rene Bessin as Deputy OIE Representative and Ms Mpho Mantsho as finance and administrative assistant. These appointments have been made in order to reach a level of staffing that is appropriate for the normative activities and mandate of the OIE SRR at this time.

Finally, Dr Mtei spoke on the signing of a formal Agreement between the OIE and FAO, with the later inclusion of AU-IBAR, regarding the Regional Animal Health Center for Southern Africa (RAHC-SA).

Dr Mtei concluded by saying that the OIE SRR-SA for Southern Africa has proven beyond doubt that given resources, both human and financial, OIE Sub-Regional Representations around the world will significantly increase the visibility of the OIE and therefore contribute positively to achieving the objectives of the OIE for the benefit of all Members.

The report was approved.

7. Update on the ALive and GF-TADs mechanisms, including a presentation of the Epidemio-Surveillance network (RESEPI) and the Regional Laboratories Network (RESOLAB) (Dr Joseph Domenech).

Dr J. Domenech summarised the activities that had been conducted in Africa jointly by the FAO and the OIE under the aegis of the GF-TADs, which was signed by the two organisations in May 2004.

Many tools have been put in place and are currently operational: the Global Early Warning and Response System for major animal diseases including zoonoses (GLEWS), the Joint OIE/FAO worldwide scientific network for the control of avian influenza (OFFLU), the Crisis Management Centre - Animal Health (CMC-AH) and Regional Animal Health Centres. Some, such as the Regional Animal Health Centres (RAHC), are yet to be consolidated. Special emphasis has been placed on region-wide epidemiological, laboratory and socio-economic networks. A study commissioned by the ALive Partnership for Africa Livestock Development, Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Growth, conducted in 2008/2009, provided the fundamental principles for their sustainability and highlighted the FAO's important role in this connection. Dr Domenech cited further cross-cutting tools, such as the Integrated National Action Plans for Avian and Human Influenza (INAP), PVS studies, and joint FAO/OIE establishment of biosecurity guides for poultry and pig farming.

Many other joint conferences were held, and the two organisations worked together to implement programmes for the control of H5N1 avian influenza and the final eradication of rinderpest, Rift Valley fever, peste des petits ruminants, trypanosomes and African swine fever. Dr Domenech made special reference to foot and mouth disease, for which a regional seminar had been held in Nairobi to prepare a regional strategy for submission to the OIE/FAO Global Conference on Foot and Mouth Disease in Paraguay in June 2009.

Dr François Le Gall from the World Bank made a presentation regarding the ALive platform.

Dr Le Gall began by introducing Dr Stephane Forman, who will represent the World Bank at the ALive programme when Dr Le Gall moves to the Asia region.

He presented the ALive platform, the first meeting of which was held in May 2004.

He made particular reference to the Nairobi meeting, at which the governance of the ALive platform was transferred to AU-IBAR.

He highlighted the fact that the ALive platform is now a model and should be presented and replicated in all regions, emphasising that this is something of which the African region should be proud.

He explained that the ALive platform was created as a solution to the lack of coordination and harmonisation in livestock activities. He stressed that ALive can be considered now as a response to this issue. He remarked that all sectors related to livestock in Africa, both from the public and private sectors, were involved and stressed the role and participation of key donors in giving sustainability to the platform.

Dr Olaho-Mukani made a short announcement requesting Republic of the Congo and Equatorial Guinea to send their Rinderpest status reconfirmation dossier to the OIE.

8. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 79th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2011

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire for Members) to be included in the agenda of the 79th General Session:

Surveillance and control challenges of transboundary animal diseases at the livestock–wildlife interface.

9. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (2011)

The following technical item, including a questionnaire, was selected for the 19th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in 2011 in Rwanda. The selected item was:

Livestock census in Africa as a vital tool for livestock disease surveillance and control

10. Recommendations of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in N'djamena, Chad, from 22 to 26 February 2009

Dr Niang gave a brief recapitulation of both recommendations that were adopted during the Regional Conference in Chad.

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| Recommendation I: | Challenges faced by African products of animal origin in accessing world markets |
| Recommendation II: | The impact of brucellosis on the economy and public health in Africa |

These Recommendations will be presented to the plenary for final adoption.

11. Recommendations of the 2nd OIE Seminar on Good Governance for Veterinary Services, held in Bamako, Mali, from 11 to 13 December 2008 (Dr A. Bouna Niang)

Dr Niang reported on the main recommendations of the seminar regarding Good Governance for Veterinary Services'.

12. PVS evaluations and PVS-Gap Analysis update in the region

Dr Daniel Bourzat, Technical Advisor of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa, reported on the status of the OIE Global Programme for strengthening Veterinary Services, based on the use of the OIE-PVS tool for the evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services, he explained the sequence of the PVS Process, stating that the first PVS evaluation in the country is a qualitative assessment to determine the performance and the compliance of Veterinary Services (VS) with the OIE international standards on quality and is considered as the “initial diagnosis”. After the OIE-PVS evaluation, and based on its outcomes, the next step is the PVS-Gap Analysis, which is a quantitative assessment of needs and priorities as established by the country itself, considered as the “proposed treatment”. He commented that for the PVS-Gap Analysis the OIE works in collaboration with its partner organisations, such as FAO, and with international donors, if desired by the country. Finally, to complete the process the OIE also provides, if requested by the countries, regular PVS Follow-up evaluation missions aimed at continuously monitoring the evolution of the situation and improvements achieved after the implementation of strengthening measures taken.

He highlighted some particularities of the OIE-PVS process such as the voluntary basis of each step (upon requests from countries); the harmonised approach of all steps through standardised procedures; the confidentiality of the outcomes, which are the countries' exclusive property (although the OIE encourages all countries to allow their reports to be released in order to complete the process in collaboration with OIE partners and donors). He mentioned the usefulness of the process for supporting financial and technical decisions at both national and international level, if necessary.

Besides showing the current state of play of the programme at global level, which to date includes 94 requests for the PVS evaluation and 29 requests for PVS-Gap Analysis, Dr Bourzat also described in detail the specific status of the African region. He encouraged those countries which have not entered the process so far to do so, and those which have already applied for the first PVS evaluation to continue the process by requesting the PVS-Gap Analysis as well as PVS Follow-up missions later if necessary.

13. OIE/EC Better Training for Safer Food Project in Africa

Dr Daniel Bourzat reported on the activities planned under the OIE/EC programme "Better Training for Safer Food" in Africa.

He began by mentioning that this programme was established through an Agreement signed between the European Commission and the OIE on 8 December 2008, with a total budget of 5.4 million euros, to be used over 2 years (2009 and 2010).

The programme includes the following 5 main activities:

1. Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services; PVS Gap Analysis and PVS follow-up evaluations
2. Improvement of national / regional legal frameworks
3. Laboratory capacity / laboratory twinnings
4. Training of National Delegates / CVOs / National Focal Points
5. Coordination meetings

He commented that a specific work programme is being established under the framework of this project which will be carried out by OIE African Regional and Sub-Regional Representations in collaboration with OIE headquarters.

14. Proposal of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories

Dr Lea Knopf informed the meeting of the proposal for an OIE Collaborating Centre for Training in Integrated Livestock and Wildlife Health and Management located at the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases of the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Pretoria in Onderstepoort, South Africa. The proposal will be presented to the Regional Commission for approval before its presentation to the plenary for final adoption.

Dr Knopf commented that the new Collaborating Centre focuses on the integrated approach linking animal and human health, animal production, marketing and trade of animals and animal products, land-use options, rural development, conservation and environmental health.

She also explained that the emphasis of the activities will be on:

- the needs of the livestock agricultural sector (commercial and subsistence);
- the needs of the wildlife sector (conservation and commercial game ranching);
- the impact on the livelihoods and health of humans; and
- the dynamics between these sectors and land-use options.

To conclude, Dr Knopf mentioned that the activities of the Centre will be phased over a period of time to give the opportunity to expand the related activities and increase the number of institutions involved on a regional basis.

The Regional Commission endorsed the proposal for the Collaborating Centre.

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

Dr Francesco Berlingieri, Deputy Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department started his presentation by introducing Dr Alice Mukakanamugire, a Rwandese veterinarian working in the OIE Animal Health Information Department.

Dr Berlingieri presented an overview of the global implementation of the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and described the status of its implementation in the region. Data on animal health information (immediate notifications, six-monthly reports and annual reports) for 2008 and 2009 were also presented.

Finally, Dr Berlingieri emphasised the importance of countries submitting animal health information on a regular basis to the OIE.

16. Presentations from regional Organisations in Africa that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

AU-IBAR

Dr Ahmed El-Sawalhy, Director of the AU-IBAR started his presentation by mentioning the key strategic objectives of AU-IBAR: the harmonisation of livestock-related policies and regulatory frameworks and the coordination of the African position on livestock issues.

Dr Ahmed El-Sawalhy mentioned the recently started Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard-Setting Organisations, commonly known as PAN-SPSO, which is funded by the EC and which aims to improve the participation of African states in the activities of the OIE, IPPC and CAC during the formulation of international sanitary, phytosanitary and food safety standards. This participation provides AU-IBAR with a unique tool to effectively pursue one of its key strategic objectives.

He spoke about the first meeting of African CVOs on the coordination of Africa's position on international animal health standards, which was held in Nairobi on 5 May 2009, with 36 countries and 3 Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in attendance. He remarked that for the first time in the history of IBAR and the OIE, African delegates will be able to attend the OIE General Session with a strong and common position, based on scientific arguments, factoring in the specific characteristics of Africa's livestock sector.

During this General Session AU-IBAR will also briefly present three new continental programmes. These new proposals are focusing on a number of important emerging issues in Africa's livestock sector, including animal identification and traceability; vaccination for neglected, but economically important, diseases; and the control and eradication of PPR.

SADC

Mr Beedeeanan Hulman, representative of SADC, reported on the activities of his organisation.

He welcomed the Regional Animal Health Center established in Gaborone and requires more participation of the SADC Regional Economic Community in the activities of such a centre.

He highlighted the importance of the establishment of the OIE Collaborating Centre for wildlife in Pretoria, which will help with matters related to animal disease control as well as trade.

Mr Hulman mentioned the changes to the Terrestrial Animal Health Code that SADC proposed during the Regional Conference in Chad and which will be sent to the Code Commission.

CEBEVIRHA

Dr Gabriel Fio-Ngaindiro, representative of CEBEVIRHA, reported on the activities of his organisation.

He emphasised the work of the organisation in the project of advocacy of veterinary products in Africa and in the field of livestock production. He commented on the introduction of passports for cattle and the International Certificate of Transhumance, and on the studies on: marketing of bovine and bovine meat, the cartography of bovine breeds and the support to the creation of a slaughter-house coupled with a private initiative.

ECOWAS

The representative of ECOWAS informed the Delegates about the work of his organisation, which is a regional group of fifteen member countries founded in 1975 with the mission of promoting integration in all fields of economic activity, including agriculture, natural resources, industry, and transport.

ECOWAS has four institutions, including the Commission. In the context of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and the New Partnership for Africa (CAADP/NEPAD), ECOWAS developed the ECOWAS Agriculture Programme (ECOWAP) to guide the implementation of the CAADP/NEPAD process in the sub-region. ECOWAP aims to ensure food security by improving agricultural production and trade potential, providing decent incomes for agricultural activities and enabling effective structuring of agricultural food value chains based on sustainable production systems. This is to be achieved using the complementary approach of the Regional Agricultural Investment Programme (RAIP) and the National Agricultural Investment Programme (NAIP).

17. Other matters

Organisation of the forthcoming 19th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa in Rwanda:

The Delegate of Rwanda made a short intervention regarding the forthcoming Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in 2011 in Rwanda.

He commented on the facilities offered by Rwanda for the conference especially in regard to communication and transportation. He encouraged all countries to attend this meeting.

Presentation by the EISMV (Ecole Inter-Etats des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires)

Prof Justin Akakpo representative of the EISMV reported on the activities of the institution.

He commented on the work of the EISMV in relation to veterinary education and made reference to the work of the institution in its capacity as an OIE Collaborating Centre.

He also commented on the twining between the *Ecole Vétérinaire* in Lyons and the EISMV for the training of Official Veterinarians.

Dr Sawadogo briefly explained the educational programmes proposed by the EISMV and the creation of master degrees in veterinary public health for official veterinarians, which aim to continue the strengthening of Veterinary Services.

18. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions

Bureau of the Regional Commission:

President	:	Dr William Olaho-Mukani (Uganda)
Vice-President	:	Dr Dauda Bangoura (Guinea)
Vice-President	:	Dr Moktar Fall (Mauritania)
Secretary General	:	Dr Marosi Molomo (Lesotho)

Administrative Commission

Dr Rachid Bouguedour (Algeria)

Dr Florencia Cipriano (Mozambique)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Stuart K. Hargreaves (Zimbabwe)

Dr Ahmed Mustafa Hassan (Sudan)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Dr Gideon Bruckner (South Africa), as President.
Prof. Salah Hammami (Tunisia), as member

Biological Standards Commission

Dr Medhi El Harrak (Morocco)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

Prof. Eli Katunguka-Rwakishaya (Uganda)

The meeting ended at 7.45 p.m.

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

Paris, 25 May 2009

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr William Olaho-Mukani)
2. Administrative Commission update (Dr Rachid Bouguedour)
3. Contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr William Olaho-Mukani)
4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (Dr William Olaho-Mukani)
5. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa. New Sub-regional office- Regional Animal Health centres. (Dr A. Bouna Niang)
6. Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa (Dr Bonaventure Mtei)
7. Update on the ALive (Dr François LeGall) and GF-TADs mechanisms, including presentation of the Epidemio-Surveillance network (RESEPI) and the Regional Laboratories Network (RESOLAB) (Dr Joseph Domenech).
8. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 79th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2011 (Dr A. Bouna Niang)
9. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (2011) (Dr A. Bouna Niang)
10. Recommendations of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in N'djamena, Chad from 22 to 26 February 2009. (Dr A. Bouna Niang)
11. Recommendations of the 2nd OIE Seminar on Good Governance for Veterinary Services, held in Bamako, Mali, from 11 to 13 December 2008 (Dr A. Bouna Niang)
12. PVS evaluations and GAP Analysis update in the region (Dr Daniel Bourzat)
13. OIE/EC BTSF Project in Africa (Dr Daniel Bourzat)
14. Proposal of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories (Dr. Lea Knopf)
15. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region (Dr Francesco Berlingieri)
16. Presentations from regional Organisations in Africa that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE
 - African Union - Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)
 - Southern African Development Community (SADC)
 - Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish Resources in CEMAC (CEBEVIRHA)
 - Economic Community of west African states (ECOWAS)
17. Other matters:
 - Comments from Rwanda regarding the next Regional Conference in 2011.
 - Presentation by the EISMV (Ecole Inter – Etats des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires)
18. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions