Reports

of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions
held during the 78th General Session
in Paris, 24 May 2010
NOTE FROM THE HEADQUARTERS

Draft Recommendations proposed during the meetings of the Regional Commissions held during the General Session must be presented again for adoption during the next Regional Commission Conference held in the respective regions, so as to be examined and possibly adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates during the General Session that follows the Regional Conferences.
REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Paris, 24 May 2010

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 24 May 2010 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 107 Delegates and observers from 41 Members of the Commission and 1 observer countries/territories, and representatives from 7 international and/regional organisations:


Observer countries/territories: France

International/regional organisations: AU-IBAR, CEBEVIRHA\(^{51}\), ECOWAS\(^{52}\), FAO, PANVAC\(^{53}\), SADC\(^{54}\), WAEMU\(^{55}\), WB\(^{56}\)

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

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted and the annexes related to agenda items were circulated electronically in advance as well as during the meeting.

2. Council update

Dr Rachid Bouguedour, member of the Administrative Commission and Delegate of Algeria, reported on the matters discussed at Commission meetings.

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\(^{51}\) CEBEVIRHA: Commission économique du bétail, de la viande et des ressources halieutiques (Economic Commission of Livestock, Meat and Fishery Resources)

\(^{52}\) ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States

\(^{53}\) PANVAC: Pan African Vaccine Control

\(^{54}\) SADC: Southern African Development Community

\(^{55}\) WAEMU: West-African Economic and Monetary Union

\(^{56}\) WB: World Bank
Dr Bouguedour referred to the candidature of Dr Bernard Vallat for the election of Director General, which was unanimously supported.

3. Contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Olaho-Mukani, reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries are a matter for concern and urged them to promptly settle their arrears.

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 highlighting that the voice of Africa is now stronger thanks to the support of the OIE Headquarters, the OIE Regional Representation and Sub Regional Representations, AU IBAR and the RECs.

He also introduced new Delegates of the region and welcomed them to the Commission.

The report was approved.

5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and on the Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC) of Bamako

Dr Abdoulaye Bouna Niang, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, reported on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa accomplished during 2009 as well as the financial and human resources situation of the Representation.

Among the activities developed in the region he highlighted, the BTSF programme covering activities in 53 African countries; capacity building within the framework of the SPS Agreement; OIE-PVS evaluations and PVS Gap Analysis, as well as the signature of an agreement between the OIE and the WAEMU.

He commented on the successful launch of activities in the new OIE Sub Regional Representations in Tunis and Kenya.

Dr Niang listed the core activities of the Representation such as implementation and support to the RAHC, the participation in the reactivation and operation of RESEPI in West and central Africa and the establishment of RESOLAB.

Regarding the RAHC in Bamako he commented on the positive development of the work carried out by the OIE, FAO and IBAR.

He commented on the fruitful collaboration between the regional Representation and the OIE’s partners, including FAO (GF-TADs programme), AU-IBAR (ALive programme), SADC and ECOWAS.

Dr Niang briefly mentioned the objectives of the GF-TADs Africa and the principal activities developed in order to fight against major animal diseases including zoonoses.

He also mentioned the audit training visit from the OIE Headquarters to Bamako and Tunis at the beginning of 2010.

The report was approved.

Dr Mtei commented that the OIE Sub Regional Representation for Southern Africa Development Community (OIE SRR SA) covers 15 OIE member countries from this region, including Seychelles which has recently become a Member of the OIE, and has, during the four years of existence, accomplished significant activities such as:

- Setting up a fully functional office environment;
- Improved national disease surveillance systems and reporting;
- OIE PVS Evaluations;
- OIE Twinning programmes;
- Numerous capacity building activities in the form of training seminars, workshops and conferences for national veterinary services personnel and stakeholders.

He mentioned the positive outcome of an independent evaluation of the SADC-EU Grant Contribution Agreement with OIE through which an action was constituted to establish the OIE SRR-SA.

He commented on the key work of the OIE SRR SA in launching and updating the OIE Africa website: www.rr-africa.oie.int which serves as an excellent way of sharing useful information and documentation on OIE activities in Africa.

Dr Mtei thanked the Government of Botswana, the SADC Secretariat (Livestock Technical Committee (LTC) for their support and encouragement to the OIE SRR-SA as well as the voluntary contributions that it receives from the European Commission and the French Cooperation.

Dr Mtei informed the participants that the OIE SRR SA is heavily involved in capacity building and networking of the OIE Focal Points through resources made available by the EU under the BTSF. The OIE SRR SA also benefits from the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund to carry out OIE capacity building activities. Other avenues for mobilizing resources are being explored to implement the 5th OIE Strategic Plan running from 2011 – 2015 including the upcoming USAID-funded Emerging Pandemic Threats project, the ongoing regional indicative programme of the (10th) EDF (EU) for the SADC region and voluntary contributions from the African continent to carry out OIE activities in Africa.

Finally Dr Mtei mentioned the recruitment of Dr Neo Mapitse from Botswana as the new Deputy OIE Sub Regional Representative for Southern Africa since 1st August 2010.

The report was approved by the Commission.

7. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa and on the Regional Animal Health centre of Tunis

Dr Kechrid, OIE Regional Representative for North Africa, informed the participants about the activities and work programme of the Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa inaugurated on January 2010 to establish and to serve the OIE Members in the Sub-Region, i.e. Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia, in cooperation with the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and the Arab-Maghreb Union (AMU). Egypt is also associated in certain activities related to the GF-TADs Platform, the Regional Animal Health Centre and the REMESA Project, in collaboration with FAO.
The various activities carried out during the first year of the Sub-Regional Representation were:

- to set up the office;
- to help Members improve the utilization of WAHIS in collaboration with the OIE Animal Health Information Department;
- to continue the implementation of the OIE-PVS Pathway in all countries of the AMU;
- to take part in events and conferences organized by the OIE;
- to support the preparation of the OIE twinning programmes.

Dr Kechrid thanked the Tunisian government and particularly the Ministry of Agriculture as well as, the bilateral and multilateral partners such as Italy, the European Commission, donors of the OIE World fund and France for the support to the establishment of the office.

Finally, he commented on the first World Conference on veterinary legislation which will take place in Djerba, Tunisia, from 7 to 9 December 2010.

8. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa

Dr Masiga started his presentation mentioning the advancement of negotiations with the Government of Kenya regarding the host of the Sub Regional Representation.

He informed the participants that, in the meantime the office is hosted by AU-IBAR in the AU premises. The office set up and all administrative procedures are successfully ongoing.

He stated that a communication has been sent to the CVOs of the sub-region informing them about the establishment of the office. Also, contacts have been made with IGAD and EAC, regarding agreement with OIE, and draft agreements have been prepared accordingly.

The Representative of the SRR has undertaken the following missions:

- CVOs training seminar in Gaborone (March 2010)
- Focal point training in Wildlife Diseases in Arusha (March 2010)
- IRCM meeting in Nairobi (March 2010)
- GF-TAD, SPINAP, ALIVE meetings in Addis Ababa (April 2010)
- USAID-EPT meeting in Kampala (April 2010)
- CVOs and Ministers ‘biannual’ meetings Entebbe (May 2010)

9. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 80th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2012

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 80th General Session:

Bees and Fish health, an important contribution to food security
10. Proposal of a technical item (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in 2011 in Rwanda

The following technical item, without questionnaire, was selected for the 19th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in 2011 in Rwanda:

Main Pathologies of camels, Breeding of camels, constraints, benefits and perspectives.

11. Organisation of the next Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in Rwanda in February 2011

Dr Theogen Rutagwenda, Delegate of Rwanda, confirmed his country’s invitation to host the 19th Conference of the Regional Commission in Kigali from 15 to 18 February 2011 (to be confirmed soon).

The government of Rwanda has already established an organising committee for the preparation of this Conference.

Dr A. Niang informed the commission that a mission to Rwanda for a preparatory meeting is planned and confirmed that the preparations are in progress to host the conference.

12. Election of a President and the Vice-Presidents for the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

Dr Olaho-Mukani informed participants that the two Vice Presidents must be elected because Dr Douda Bangoura must leave his current position as Delegate of Guinea and Vice President of the Commission because he was appointed Technical Adviser to the Minister and the Delegate of Mauritania got a promotion. On the other hand, due to his retirement soon, Dr Olaho-Mukani will have to be replaced.

Dr Berhe Gebreegziabher, Delegate of Ethiopia, was nominated as President of the Commission, Dr Saley Mahamadou, Delegate of Niger, as 1st Vice President and Dr Mohammed Abdel Razig Abdel Aziz, Delegate of Sudan, as 2nd Vice President.

13. Update on the INAP and GF-TADs mechanisms

Dr Margaret Phiri, representative of FAO, informed the participants that the World Bank, FAO and OIE have drafted a final report: “Integrated National Action Program (INAP) on Avian and Human Influenza in Sub-Saharan Africa: Lessons for the Future - Project Completion Report (March 2010)” (currently examined by AU-IBAR for final comments). The associated programs and projects were required to prioritize animal health activities, to consider the danger of spread of infection to humans, potential pandemic spread, and the socio-economic impacts for all stakeholders.

Dr Phiri commented that joint rapid assessments missions (JRAM) were launched in early 2007 by the ALive Secretariat with objective of providing technical assistance to Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries to:

- Assess their current avian and human influenza (AHI) prevention and response capacity

- Develop a national medium term integrated programme for the prevention and control of AHI and the implementation of the OIE guidelines for the strengthening of the veterinary services
- Develop a financing plan to implement the above programme and identify funding gaps thought OIE PVS-GAP Analysis.

- Provide Governments with a fund raising and monitoring tool for AHI.

Finally she mentioned that a total of 73 experts were involved:

- 30 AH specialists (FAO/12; OIE/12; IBAR/6)
- 11 Human health specialists
- 10 Operation specialists
- 10 Communication experts
- 12 Financial Analysts

14. OIE-PVS evaluations, PVS Gap Analysis and Legislation missions update in the region

Dr Daniel Bourzat, 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 that the PVS Pathway is organised in four steps: (i) the PVS evaluation of the Veterinary Services (VS) of one country, known as “the diagnosis”, is a qualitative assessment to determine the performance and the compliance of VS with the OIE international standards on quality; (ii) the PVS Gap Analysis (“the prescription”) is based on the outcomes of the PVS mission and is a quantitative assessment of needs and priorities as established by the country itself; (iii) the third step consists in a range of possible technical missions / activities (“the treatment”) to ensure the good governance of the VS of the country; and (iv) to complete the process the OIE also provides, 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 Pathway such as the voluntary basis of each step; the harmonised approach 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 shared with OIE partners and donors to complete the process.

Besides showing the current state of play of the Programme at global level, Dr Bourzat also described in detail the specific status of the Africa Region:

- As of the 17 May 2010, 45 OIE PVS missions have been requested; 41 missions have been done and 31 reports have been made available to OIE partners and donors.
- As of the 17 May 2010, 27 PVS Gap Analysis missions have been requested; 14 missions have been done and 10 reports have been made available to OIE partners and donors.
- As of the 17 May 2010, 15 Legislation missions have been requested and 5 missions have been done.

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

Dr Daniel Bourzat reported on the activities planned under the OIE/EC programme BTSF in Africa, financed by the European Commission.
He commented that, the program has funded OIE PVS evaluation missions and PVS Gap Analysis as well as legislation missions and the laboratory twinning programme in the region.

Dr Bourzat explained that activities are focused mainly on the training of delegates and OIE focal points. He also mentioned the high rate of participation in such seminars as well as the very positive feedback, encouraging the continuation of this successful Programme.

He concluded that during this year the evolution of the program was rich in learning and an excellent opportunity to set up the proceedings.

16. Proposal of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and Laboratory twinning

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 and Collaborating Centres. The Regional Commission was provided with future projections of the number of Laboratories and Centres, should the Assembly adopt all the new proposals during this General Session. A slide showing the list of diseases for which there is not yet an OIE Reference Laboratory was included. The Commission was updated on the current status of the OIE Twinning Programme, along with an analysis of current trends.

Finally, Dr Knopf encouraged Delegates of the three countries that are not yet officially recognised as free of Rinderpest to do their best to get this recognition. She also invited all countries of the region to answer the questionnaire on Rinderpest Virus Stocks sent by the OIE Headquarters.

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

Dr Francesco Berlingieri, Deputy Head, OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented the six-monthly and annual reporting situation for 2009 for countries/territories in the region and pointed out those who have not yet submitted parts or all of their reports and urged them to submit them as soon as possible. A list of countries, which have submitted their reports but are still waiting for answers before finalisation and validation, was also provided.

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

18. Communication issues

Maria Zampaglione, Head of the Communication Unit, reminded participants of the capacity building activities of the OIE in terms of communication. She mentioned the successful outcome of the OIE seminar on communication that was organised in Gaborone, Botswana in September 2009 for the English speaking African countries. The seminar was a real success. Ms Zampaglione also stressed the recommendation that media training sessions on relevant animal health issues should be organised on a regular basis by the national Veterinary Services, with the assistance of the OIE.

Ms Zampaglione took the opportunity to inform participants that a seminar on Communication will be organised for French speaking African countries in Morocco on 7-8 October 2010. The exact location still needs to be confirmed with the OIE Delegate of Morocco.

19. Update on ALive activities

Dr Ahmed El-Sawalhy, Director of the AU-IBAR informed the participants that the ALive Secretariat, now housed by AU-IBAR, has finalised the strategy for the platform and an action plan for the 3 coming years, which were adopted by the Executive Committee.
The major programme for the coming years is the project on “governance of veterinary services”. This project, implemented in partnership with the RECs, OIE and FAO, will cover the 47 African ACP countries. It will support capacity building in the animal health area, by (i) conducting advocacy and awareness raising, (ii) supporting policy, strategy and legislation formulation, and (iii) building capacities for their implementation.

20. 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 commented on the activities of the organisation and informed that during the last year, AU-IBAR has drafted its new strategic plan for the period 2010-2014. The new strategy marks a significant shift in IBAR approach by taking better into account the drivers, challenges and opportunities for the African Animal resources sector (Globalization, Climate Change, re-emerging diseases...), and by shifting from a thematic approach to a programmatic one.

The “new AU-IBAR” is now organized in six strategic programmes which are: (1) TADs and zoonoses (2) Natural Resources Management (3) investment & Competitiveness (4) Standards & Regulations (5) Knowledge Management (6) Policy & Capacity Building.

- CEBEVIRHA

Mr Bouba Khalidou, representative of CEBEVIRHA, reported on the activities of his organisation.

He recalled that this is now a specialised institution of CEMAC in charge of promoting economic and social development in the sub-region in the field of livestock and fisheries.

He informed the participants that the PER which is the French acronym for “Regional Economic Programme” is the answer to CEMAC to alleviate poverty and for the improvement of economical situation.

Five pillars for growth have been identified: including Agro-industry, livestock and Fisheries. Among the six regional economic poles the agro-industrial poles of savannas and the continental fishing pole are managed by CEBEVIRHA.

The fundamental objective is to contribute to the reinforcement of food security in the sub-region through the development of these two technological poles.

Finally Mr Bouba Khalidou mentioned that a special transboundary economic zone should be created in order to attract livestock breeders, traders, small and medium enterprises in order to facilitate trade and value livestock products and to limit the increase of meat cost.

- WAEMU

Dr Issoufo Dare, representative of WAEMU, informed participants about the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) activities.

Dr Issoufo Dare indicated that 20 market authorisation applications for veterinary medicines are now processed by its administration.
He mentioned that WAEMU has initiated a new strategic plan and several programs to improve animal health and livestock production. These programs are mainly focused on: Harmonization of veterinary medicine legislations and inspection of veterinary medicines; capacity building of Veterinary Services and free movement of veterinarians

- **ECOWAS**

Dr Vivian Iwar, representative of ECOWAS, reminded that ECOWAS is a regional grouping of 15 member countries.

She explained that ECOWAS is developing an animal health policy/strategic plan as well as supporting the regional laboratories and the epidemi-surveillance units and harmonized SPS regulation and will support member states to implement sensitization activities in order to disseminate this information for understanding of the issues at the local level.

She also stated that ECOWAS is at an advanced stage of the implementation of the ECOWAP/CAADP process with 13 Member States that have signed their contracts plus the signing of the regional contract with stakeholders and partners. There is a component for livestock value chains of meat, dairy and poultry. ECOWAS is presently at the level of developing livestock plans.

Dr Iwar commented that ECOWAS supported the celebration of the level of developing livestock plans as well as the celebration of the world veterinary day this year with the Nigerian veterinary medical association on the One World One Health theme. ECOWAS continues to collaborate with its partners, particularly AU-IBAR on several programs including IRCM, PAN-SPSO etc, and with the EU/AUC on BTSF.

Finally, Dr Iwar said that with the support of ECOWAS Member States, of which 14 are OIE members, ECOWAS would like to benefit from an OIE Sub-Regional coordinator for the ECOWAS region.

- **SADC**

Mr Beedeenan Hulman, representative of SADC, made several comments supporting the compartment concept and the work regarding Commodity – Based Trade, which the OIE has carried out.

Additionally, Dr Hulman mentioned that SADC Member states does not agree with the proposal to delete “Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS)” of pigs from the OIE list of diseases.

Finally he stated that taking into consideration that SADC Member States are still included in the category: “undetermined BSE risk” for trade in deboned muscle meat and the OIE should, if possible, revise the code concerning surveillance and tests for BSE in order to prove freedom from the disease.

21. **Other matters**

Dr Joseph Domenech, Vice President of the Vet 2011 Animation and Coordination Committee, presented Vet 2011 which is the celebration of the 250 years anniversary of the creation of the first Veterinary School in Lyon, France, in 1761, by the King Louis XV. This was also the establishment of the veterinary profession and of the veterinary sciences. Claude Bourgelat, the first director of this school, was the first person to demonstrate the similarities between the animal and human “machineries” and therefore to develop the “One Health” concept. He published his findings in the Diderot’s Encyclopedia of Sciences in 1755 and this was the beginning of comparative medicine.
Vet 2011 slogan is «Vet for health, Vet for food, Vet for the planet»: veterinarians play indeed a very important role in animal health, human health, food security, food safety and environment. Vet 2011 will be most important communication and promotion campaign on veterinary profession ever undertaken on such a scale. Numerous events will be organized by the National Vet 2011 Committees all over the world.

Vet 2011 is led by an Executive Council, Dr B Vallat, being its president, and by an Animation and Coordination Committee, chaired by Professor J-F Chary. Vet 2011 was established by seven founding institutions (first of all the OIE), joined later by associated members (World Veterinary Association, several Veterinary Associations – African, European, Euro-Arab, Asian, South and Central American PANVET, American, Australian, New Zealand, South Africa, Canadian, Brazilian, Australian..., among other) and Institutional partners among them FAO and the European Commission as well as business partners such as Merial and Pfizer. 268 corresponding members from 78 countries are registered to date. 17 National Committees have been established to date.

All necessary information is available on the web site www.vet2011.org. Anyone interested and ready to join Vet 2011 including all veterinarians who want to organize a Vet 2011 event in his/her country can contact the president of the Animation and Coordination Committee.

The Delegate of Ghana informed about the Commonwealth Veterinary Association Conference that will be host in his country in March 2011.

The meeting ended at 7:00 p.m.
### Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr William Olaho-Mukani)
2. Council 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. Report of the Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and on the Regional Animal Health centre of Bamako.(Dr A. Bouna Niang)
6. Report of the Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa and on the Regional Animal Health Centre of Gaborone (Dr Bonaventure Mtei)
7. Report of the Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa and on the Regional Animal Health centre of Tunis (Dr Faouzi Kechrid)
8. Report of the Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa (Dr Walter Masiga)
9. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 80th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2012 (Dr A.Bouna Niang)
10. Proposal of a technical item (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in 2011 in Rwanda. (Dr A. Bouna Niang)
11. Organisation of the next Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in Rwanda in February 2011 (Dr Niang and Dr Theogen Rutagwenda, Delegate of Rwanda).
12. Election of a President and the Vice-Presidents for the OIE Regional Commission for Africa. (Dr William Olaho-Mukani)
13. Update on the INAP and GF-TADs mechanisms. (Dr Margaret Phiri)
14. OIE-PVS evaluations, PVS Gap Analysis and Legislation missions update in the region (Dr Daniel Bourzat)
15. OIE/EC BTSF Project in Africa including focal point seminars (Dr Daniel Bourzat)
16. Proposal of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and Laboratory twinning (Dr Lea Knopf)
17. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region (Dr Francesco Berlingieri)
18. Communication issues (Ms Maria Zampaglione)

19. Update on ALive activities (AU-IBAR)

20. Presentations from regional Organisations in Africa that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE
   - African Union - Interafican 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)
   - West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)

21. Other matters