

final report 2013



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

Paris, 27 May 2013

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 27 May 2013 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 94 participants, including Delegates and observers from 38 Members of the Commission and 3 observer countries and representatives from 11 international or regional organisations:

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

Observer countries/territories: Liberia, South Sudan, United States of America.

International/regional organisations: AU-IBAR⁴¹, AU-PANVAC⁴², FAO, CEBEVIRHA⁴³, CIRAD⁴⁴, ECCAS⁴⁵, ICFAW⁴⁶, IFAH, ILRI, WAEMU⁴⁷, 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.

Dr Theogen Rutagwenda, Delegate of Rwanda and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, presented apologies from Dr Molomo who had been unable to attend the meeting in person. He welcomed all participants to the meeting.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

⁴¹ AU-IBAR: African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

⁴² AU-PANVAC: African Union, Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre

⁴³ CEBEVIRHA: Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish resources in CEMAC

⁴⁴ CIRAD: Center for International Research on Environment and Development

⁴⁵ ECCAS: Economic Community of Central African States

⁴⁶ ICFAW: International Coalition for Animal Welfare

⁴⁷ WAEMU: West African Economic and Monetary Union

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Jaouad Berrada, Delegate of Morocco and member of the Council, 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.

3. 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, gave a brief review of the activities in which the OIE Regional Commission had participated since the last annual meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa at the 80th OIE General Session.

He described the key issues discussed at the last OIE General Session and made special reference to the elections of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, Council and Specialist Commissions.

Speaking on the launch of the project Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa (VET-GOV), Dr Rutagwenda commented on the VET-GOV workshop held in Paris in May 2012.

Making reference to the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Togo in February 2013, Dr Rutagwenda said that, the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Togo and the OIE Director General had urged participants to discuss issues relating to the safeguarding and preservation of livestock. He also remembered that, during the Conference, OIE and Uganda had signed an agreement for a technical assistance programme on veterinary legislation.

Dr Rutagwenda reported that the African common position had been valuable in helping African Delegates to put forward Africa's point of view on such matters as the proposed changes to the OIE *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Animal Health Codes*.

The Vice-President of the Commission concluded by encouraging countries to increase their participation in OIE activities and stressed the utmost importance of Member Countries implementing OIE standards in line with the OIE Strategic Plan.

He concluded by welcoming the new OIE Delegates and, on behalf of the Regional Commission, congratulated and offered support from the OIE Regional Commission to the African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC) for submitting an application to the OIE for a new Collaborating Centre for Quality Control of Veterinary Vaccines.

4. Report of the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and of the OIE Sub-Regional Representations, including Focal Point Seminars

Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, provided a summary of the activities carried out by the Regional Representation and three OIE Sub-Regional Representations for Africa between 1 January and 1 May 2013, and their planned activities for the rest of the year.

He started his presentation by detailing the main activities and events carried out:

- Capacity-building activities, including veterinary legislation training in Cotonou (Benin) in January 2013, attended by 70 participants from 15 ECOWAS countries, delivered as part of the EU-funded VET-GOV project on veterinary governance in Africa, with WAEMU financial and technical support;
- The regional rabies proficiency test for Member Countries in the SADC, Congo Basin and East Africa regions, run by the Agricultural Research Council-Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute (ARC-OVI) in South Africa;
- Training on laboratory diagnosis of Rift Valley fever in Tanzania;
- Pilot training programme on peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and training for African newly appointed OIE Delegates.

He reported that the PPR pilot project entitled “Vaccine Standards and Pilot Approach to Peste des Petits Ruminants Control in Africa” (VSPA), funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, had been launched in African Union Headquarters in Addis Abeba in February 2013.

Dr Samaké commented on the OIE sub-grant to AU-PANVAC for capacity-building on PPR vaccine control, launched in Dakar in February 2013, and on the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, held in Lomé (Togo) from 18 to 22 February 2013, which had been attended by 26 African countries and by several regional and international organisations.

The Regional Representative announced that the OIE laboratory twinning project on (notifiable) avian influenza and Newcastle disease between the Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory (BNVL) and its parent laboratory, the United Kingdom Animal Health Veterinary Laboratory Agency (AHVLA), was officially ended with success.

Referring to staff, Dr Samaké reported that Dr Florência Massango Cipriano, Deputy Regional Representative for Africa, had been temporarily relocated to the OIE Gaborone office as of 1 February 2013 and that Dr Patrick Bastiaensen had been appointed Programme Officer at the OIE Nairobi office as of 1 January 2013.

He explained that activities between 1 January and 1 May 2013 had also included a number of coordination meetings and courtesy visits to Member Countries, together with consultations on potential new regional and sub-regional joint programmes and funding with the following organisations: Agence Française de Développement (AFD), AU-IBAR, European Commission Delegation, FAO-ECTAD⁴⁸, ILRI, Kenyan Government, PAAWA⁴⁹, VSF⁵⁰-Germany, World Bank and USDA/APHIS⁵¹.

⁴⁸ FAO-ECTAD: FAO Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases Operations

⁴⁹ PAAWA: Pan Africa Animal Welfare Alliance

⁵⁰ VSF: *Vétérinaires Sans Frontières* (Doctors without Borders)

⁵¹ USDA/APHIS: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture

Dr Samaké also reported on meetings organised by AU-IBAR in Member Countries, attended by the Regional Representation at both regional and sub-regional levels, on the issues of: standard methods and procedures for the IGAD⁵² region; harmonisation of veterinary legislation in the ECCAS region. Coordination meetings also took place.

Dr Samaké said that actions had been undertaken to raise Member Countries' awareness of the importance of complying with international standards, in particular by following the OIE PVS Pathway and by reporting animal diseases.

He summarised the main activities to be conducted by the end of 2013, consisting of attendance at the following events:

- 81st OIE General Session and the Regional Commission meeting in Paris (France) in May 2013;
- OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education and the Role of the Veterinary Statutory Body (Foz do Iguazu [Brazil]) in December 2013;
- 31st World Veterinary Congress in Prague (Czech Republic) in September 2013.

Dr Samaké concluded by saying that further planned activities would include continued capacity-building activities and support to Member Countries in a range of areas, with the emphasis on OIE PVS Pathway implementation, focusing mainly on: good governance of Veterinary Services; veterinary legislation; donors round table organisation; laboratory twinning agreements and recognition of Reference Centres; twinings on veterinary education establishments and Veterinary Statutory Bodies; disease notification; PPR pilot project and other relevant PPR activities. The Regional Representation and Sub-Regional Representations for Africa will also continue their coordination activities with partners (regional and international organisations), including visits to Member Countries and raising their awareness of the need to pay regularly their OIE contributions and to report animal diseases.

Discussions

Dr Rachid Bouguedour, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for North Africa, briefly supplemented Dr Samaké's information on the Mediterranean Network of Establishments for Veterinary Education (REEV-Med). He explained that this new network had been launched in Rabat (Morocco) in September 2012 as a direct consequence of the recommendations of the OIE Global Conferences on Veterinary Education (Paris 2009 and Lyon 2011). He added that the next General Assembly of REEV-Med would be held in Italy in September 2013 and all OIE Delegates from neighbouring Mediterranean countries were requested to support the involvement of their veterinary education establishments in REEV-Med.

5. Selection of a Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 83rd General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2015

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 83rd General Session:

- “Foodborne illness risk reduction programmes”

⁵² IGAD: Intergovernmental Authority on Development

6. Confirmation, date and venue of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2015

Dr Jaouad Berrada, Delegate of Morocco, confirmed his country's willingness to host the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa. The Conference will be held in February 2015.

7. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

The following technical item (with questionnaire) was adopted for the 21st Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa:

- “Impact of neglected diseases on animal productivity and public health in Africa”

8. Election of the Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

Dr Rutagwenda informed the participants that the Delegate of Chad had stepped down, leaving a position of Vice-President of the Regional Commission vacant, meaning that an election had to be held.

Dr Komla Batassé Batawui, Delegate of Togo, was unanimously elected as Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa.

9. Recommendations of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, held in Lomé (Togo) from 18 to 22 February 2013

Dr Theogen Rutagwenda, Delegate of Rwanda and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, commented on the recent 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Lomé (Togo). He described the main recommendations made following the discussions of each technical item.

Discussion of Technical Item I (with questionnaire), entitled “Promoting intra-African trade of animals and animal products”, led to the following conclusions:

- Intensification of production systems and consumption of animal products in Africa are low despite the presence of many animals, and the continent is an importer of animal products;
- Constraints in the area of customs tariffs, legislation and policies hinder trade; and
- Lack of infrastructure and poor border control make trade difficult.

The following major recommendations were made:

- Implement the recommendations of OIE PVS Pathway missions to the respective countries;
- Develop policies/programmes for improving the competitiveness of animal products.
- Apply OIE standards to overcome sanitary and non-sanitary constraints to trade in animals and animal products;

- Harmonise at bilateral, sub-regional and regional levels all sanitary and non-sanitary standards, reference systems and procedures governing trade in animals and animal products; and
- Strengthen market information systems for animals and animal products.

Discussion of Technical Item II (without questionnaire), entitled “The importance of integrating animal welfare, environmental health and veterinary legislation in improving food security and contributing to agricultural Gross Domestic Product in Africa”, led to the following conclusions:

- Livestock plays a significant socio-economic role in Africa;
- Implementation of animal welfare, environmental health and veterinary legislation increases productivity;
- Some welfare standards and guidelines require efforts by Member Countries; and
- Delivery of veterinary services demands awareness, capacity-building, human and financial resources and a clear organisational structure.

The Conference recommended that Member Countries:

- Appoint National Focal Points for animal welfare;
- Take steps to implement standards on animal welfare and veterinary legislation laid down by the OIE;
- Take environmental health seriously as it relates to animal health and animal welfare;
- Increase knowledge and awareness of animal welfare and environmental health management; and
- Increase capacity-building to enhance skills and expertise in animal welfare and environmental health management as they relate to livestock production.

10. Perspectives regarding RECs targeted Veterinary Legislation Seminars in cooperation with IBAR

Dr Patrick Bastiaensen, Programme Officer at the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa, began his presentation by saying that OIE involvement in veterinary legislation was nothing new but had come to the forefront because of the outcomes of Veterinary Service evaluations conducted since 2006 under the OIE PVS Pathway, a programme to improve the performance of Veterinary Services.

He explained that the recurring shortages or shortcomings identified in most of the countries evaluated had led to the development of a Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP), under the umbrella of the overall OIE PVS Pathway.

Dr Bastiaensen described the important milestones that had paved the way for the formal launch of the VLSP, in particular country visits and stakeholder capacity-building at country and Regional Economic Community levels, including: publication of OIE Guidelines on Veterinary Legislation in 2008, followed in May 2012 by the adoption of the revised

guidelines as international standards (Chapter 3.4. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*); implementation of pilot veterinary legislation support missions in 2007 and 2008; and First OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation, held in Djerba (Tunisia) from 7 to 9 December 2010.

Dr Bastiaensen added that a first pilot training seminar, targeting the 15 SADC countries, had been held in Gaborone (Botswana) in November 2011 as part of the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSE) programme, which was implemented in part by the OIE and funded by the European Commission's Directorate General for Health and Consumers (DG-SANCO), with additional technical and financial support from the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA). A second training seminar had been held for ECOWAS countries in Cotonou (Benin) in January 2013, funded by the European Union under its contribution agreement with the OIE for the VET-GOV project on veterinary governance in Africa, with additional technical and financial support from WAEMU.

He explained that the VET-GOV project was implemented through three contribution agreements with the European Commission: the main one (in financial terms) with AU-IBAR, based in Nairobi (Kenya); and two smaller ones with OIE and FAO respectively.

Dr Bastiaensen said that, in order to complete the round of training of senior veterinary officials (OIE Delegates, OIE National Focal Points and registrars of veterinary councils) on this particular topic, OIE and AU-IBAR had pooled their resources to hold two additional training seminars by the end of 2013. The participants will be senior veterinary officials and legal advisors for the remaining Member States not targeted yet in the previous seminars.

He explained that the main purpose of the training seminar was to enhance veterinary officials' understanding of the fundamentals of legislation, in general, and veterinary or animal health legislation, in particular. The training course will be structured around the new OIE standards on veterinary legislation. The first training course (for English speakers) will take place in Arusha (Tanzania) in October 2013, while the second course will take place in Algiers (Algeria) in late 2013.

Dr Bastiaensen concluded by saying that the OIE and AU-IBAR were delighted at the prospect of renewed technical collaboration for the benefit of African Veterinary Services and Veterinary Statutory Bodies.

Discussions

Dr Letlhogile Modisa, Delegate of Botswana, requested clarification from Dr Rutagwenda on the recommendations arising from Technical Item 1 of the Regional Conference entitled "Promoting intra-African trade of animal and animal products". He asked for more details regarding one of the Conference conclusions that intensification of production systems and consumption of animal products in Africa was low, despite abundant animal resources, and that the continent was an importer of animal products.

Dr Rutagwenda replied that the technical item had led the Conference to conclude that the African scenario was contradictory because, despite an abundance of animal resources on the continent, Africa's level of production and consumption of animal products was very low. Dr Rutagwenda therefore underlined the Conference recommendations that it was important, among other things, to intensify animal production and improve the competitiveness of animal products, as well as to ensure the use of OIE standards to overcome sanitary and non-sanitary constraints to intra-African trade in animals and products of animal origin.

Making reference to Dr Bastiaensen's presentation, Dr Baba Soumare, Representative of AU-IBAR, emphasised on the importance, for the region, of the on-going collaboration between the OIE and AU-IBAR for the organisation of veterinary legislation seminars.

11. Proposal for designation of a new Collaborating Centre

Dr Karim Tounkara, Director of the Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre, presented the Commission with an application for the OIE to consider the "African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC), Debre-Zeit, Ethiopia" as an OIE Collaborating Centre for "Quality Control of Veterinary Vaccines".

He provided a brief review of the centre and its activities and said that full details could be found in the Working Document of the meeting.

Dr Bewket Siraw Adgeh, Delegate of Ethiopia, the host country of this proposed centre, supported the proposal of AU-PANVAC.

The Commission approved the proposal from AU-PANVAC/Ethiopia. It will be presented for endorsement by the World Assembly of Delegates.

12. Update on the PPR control strategy in Africa

Dr Domenech from the OIE Scientific and Technical Department began his presentation by reminding that an update on the status of PPR in Africa and worldwide had been made at the recent Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in Lomé (Togo), from 18 to 22 February 2013, covering: disease characteristics (including virology, epidemiology, symptoms and lesions); economic and social importance; and control methods.

He then added that a particular emphasis had been placed on the highly effective tools now available, such as vaccines, and the importance of epidemiological surveillance, early warning and national and international disease reporting via the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS/WAHID). Dr Domenech pointed out that a prerequisite for implementing any PPR control and prevention programme was to strengthen animal health services.

Dr Domenech gave a brief review of OIE activities and of documents published by OIE both alone and jointly with FAO, as part of GF-TADs, since the Regional Commission meeting in Lomé. The activities he highlighted included: meetings of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission and Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases in February 2013 and publication of the meeting reports; the on-going work of the GF-TADS PPR Working Group of the OIE and FAO; and continuation of the VSPA regional project funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

He said that, in addition to the OIE-implemented VSPA pilot project in West Africa, national and regional PPR experiences were being monitored and would be analysed for use in preparing the global strategy.

He concluded by saying that a number of organisations, including FAO and OIE Reference Centres and the ILRI, were developing research programmes in various fields, including: heat-stable vaccines; diagnostic tests; and service delivery systems. The OIE is supporting this research and, jointly with FAO, it will establish a network of research institutions and organisations for preparing and implementing PPR control programmes, which will bring together researchers and experts to support the global strategy and develop new tools and methods.

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

Dr Aziza Mustafa, Chargée de Mission at the OIE Animal Health Information Department, gave a brief update on the most relevant aspects of animal disease reporting in Africa. She started by emphasising the importance of timely disease reporting by countries via WAHIS, and of providing further epidemiological information on disease prevention and control, in order to maintain transparency, enhance trade and contribute to global early warning and information on disease/health distribution worldwide. She went on to provide detailed regional information on compliance with reporting for 2012, which revealed that 27 countries in Africa (51%) had provided on time complete annual reports. Dr Mustafa also reported on how the submission time of six-monthly and annual reports from African countries had evolved compared with that of all countries reporting to the OIE between 2009 and 2012, showing an overall reduction in reporting times, particularly for the second six-monthly and annual reports.

Finally, Dr Mustafa described some of the improvements made to the new version of WAHIS in order to improve disease notification in wild species. Dr Mustafa said that 63 countries worldwide had submitted their wildlife annual reports, adding that any interested countries that had not yet submitted a report on the section relating to non-OIE listed diseases specific to wild animals were welcome to do so at any time in the near future.

Discussions

The representative from Zimbabwe asked if it was possible to have an extension of the notification deadline for the six-monthly and annual reports. She pointed out that a 45-day delay for submitting the annual report was always difficult to manage.

Dr Moustafa explained that deadlines for the annual report were flexible and always took into account the size of the country and its animal population.

14. Implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway in Africa

Dr Daniel Bourzat, Advisor to the OIE Regional Representative for Africa, began his presentation by providing Regional Commission Members with a brief overview on the status of implementation of the various OIE PVS Pathway missions undertaken in the region. He indicated the countries that would be eligible for some mission categories and invited them to officially request such missions.

He went on to provide an update on the specific tools used in the different missions. He explained that all the tools used in the OIE PVS Pathway are regularly updated with the aid of experienced experts to ensure that they comply with the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. Regarding the PVS Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services, he indicated that, starting this year, the OIE would be giving countries requesting a PVS evaluation follow-up mission the opportunity to evaluate upon request their capacity for implementing the ‘One Health’ concept. He explained that, following the outcomes of pilot missions, the OIE had identified 14 existing Critical Competencies for that purpose. He also reported on the first version of the PVS tool for evaluating the performance of aquatic animal health services.

After providing some background on how the OIE was developing the “treatment” tools used under the PVS Pathway, Dr Bourzat gave details regarding the current and new treatments available to Members. He said that the OIE considered laboratory twinning and the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme as well-established treatments and

explained that new treatments had recently been made available to Members, namely PVS Pathway laboratory missions and the possibility of undertaking twinning in veterinary education and between Veterinary Statutory Bodies.

He reminded the Regional Commission of OIE efforts to share with donors and partners the outcomes of the different missions undertaken through the OIE PVS Pathway, when requested by countries. He indicated that the OIE was also giving countries the opportunity to share, at national level, mission reports with any relevant ministries that might be called upon to support activities to strengthen their Veterinary Services.

Dr Bourzat concluded by reiterating that the OIE PVS Pathway was a continuous process aimed at sustainably improving Veterinary Services' compliance with international standards. He added that the OIE worked ceaselessly to convince governments and donors to support not only the PVS Pathway, but also the implementation of its recommendations and outcomes. Dr Bourzat acknowledged that the Better Training for Safer Food programme in Africa, which had ended in 2012, had greatly supported OIE efforts to build the capacity of newly appointed Delegates and National Focal Points. There was a risk that the end of this intensive capacity-building programme, combined with high turnover of Delegates and Focal Points, would undermine the ability of Member Countries in the region to fully implement the recommendations of OIE PVS Pathway reports. He concluded by stating that Veterinary Services could be improved only with the strong commitment and ownership of countries themselves, and that this should be a priority of the Regional Commission for Africa.

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

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

Dr Baba Soumare, AU-IBAR Chief Animal Health Officer, began his presentation by saying that the volume of trade and marketing activities had grown considerably over the past year. He explained that these activities focused mainly on: animal health certification, identification and traceability; and support for stakeholder organisations. AU-IBAR has also embarked on a process to establish a continental market information system for livestock commodities.

Dr Soumare stated that AU-IBAR remained heavily committed to supporting and enhancing the participation of African nations in standard-setting, particularly in the OIE's animal health standards process.

He added that development of an enhanced version of the Africa Animal Resource Information System was complete and was being rolled out in its Member States.

He confirmed that animal health interventions remained the main focus of AU-IBAR, with strong support for veterinary institutional reform through implementation of the VET-GOV project on veterinary governance in Africa, complying with OIE PVS guidelines.

He went on to say that new regional projects would also target disease surveillance and control capabilities. There has been significant progress with the promotion of and consensus-building on the adoption of the 'One Health' approach within the ECCAS Integrated Regional Coordination Mechanism (IRCM) for the control of transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses in Africa.

Dr Soumare reported that a Pan African Programme for the control of PPR had been developed jointly under the leadership of AU-IBAR and the African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC), and had been approved for implementation by the 9th Conference of Ministers. In addition, a strategy to control African swine fever in Africa was being developed jointly with FAO and ILRI.

Dr Soumare concluded by announcing that AU-IBAR had recently embarked on a process for developing a continental strategy to expand the continent's livestock sector, together with a related continental programme, adding that the consultation processes for formulating the two instruments had been initiated.

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

Dr Cheikh Ly, FAO Animal Production and Health Officer, informed the meeting that FAO had been implementing its programmes since 2012 within a context marked by decentralisation and merging of emergency and development action, with five new strategic objectives:

1. Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition;
2. Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner;
3. Reduce rural poverty;
4. Enable more inclusive and efficient agriculture and food systems at local, national and international levels;
5. Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises.

He said that, in Africa, implementation of the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF) were drivers for effective action to assist beneficiaries. In several animal health areas, FAO works in full cooperation and partnership with the OIE and other organisations, including AU-IBAR and Regional Economic Communities, and also through its strong participation in the Regional GF-TADs Steering Committee.

He explained that key areas were: an integrated and people-centred approach to disease control; 'One Health'; prevention and control of PPR, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, African swine fever, foot and mouth disease, zoonoses (including rabies and Rift Valley fever); anti-microbial resistance; rinderpest post-eradication actions; food safety; and mobile devices used for field surveillance. Renewed attention is being paid to the tsetse/trypanosomosis complex. FAO supports partnerships on priority transboundary animal diseases and trypanosomosis/zoonoses to reduce the impact on livelihoods and public health.

- **World Bank**

Dr Stéphane Forman, World Bank (WB) representative for Africa, pointed to the steadily increasing collaboration between the WB and its partners in the area of livestock development and animal health, especially the OIE. He said that the WB was currently finalising its Global Agenda of Action for livestock, aimed at building a 10-year corporate vision of livestock development for the WB, which would be translated into three-year Regional Action Plans, including one for Africa. The Global Agenda comprises three pillars – health, environment and equity – of which partnership is one of the key

elements, as evidenced by the OIE’s secondment of a veterinarian to the WB to advance the health pillar. The WB is currently preparing a grant for the OIE and World Health Organization to conduct analytical work and develop tools relating to ‘One Health’. The WB representative reiterated the importance of OIE activities as a Global Public Good and reconfirmed WB support for the OIE. He recognised the crucial work that Chief Veterinary Officers were doing in this regard in their respective countries, both in Africa and worldwide. WB support for the OIE’s work on good governance of Veterinary Services, including active WB involvement in the recently published OIE Scientific and Technical Review on “Good governance and financing of efficient Veterinary Services” is another example of collaboration between the two institutions.

The WB widely recognises the OIE PVS Pathway as the tool to guide investment for strengthening Veterinary Services. It is now routinely used to support the preparation and implementation of WB-funded projects in the agriculture and livestock sector in Africa and other regions. The “Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project” being prepared jointly with IGAD will involve Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. Major interventions under this project will include strengthening Veterinary Services and national and sub-regional animal disease surveillance and diagnostic networks, as well as building capacity on sanitary and phytosanitary standards, identification and traceability. OIE support during the preparation process and later with implementation would therefore be much appreciated.

16. Other matters

Dr Albertina Shilongo, Delegate of Namibia, announced her country’s wish to host the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in 2017.

The meeting officially ended at 5:50 p.m.

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

Paris, 27 May 2013

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Theogen Rutagwenda, Delegate of Rwanda and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa)
 2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr Jaouad Berrada, Delegate of Morocco and Member of the Council)
 3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (Dr Theogen Rutagwenda)
 4. Report of the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and of the OIE Sub-Regional Representations, including Focal Point Seminars (Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa)
 5. Selection of a Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 83rd General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2015 (Dr Yacouba Samaké)
 6. Confirmation, date and venue of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2015 (Dr Jaouad Berrada)
 7. Selection of a Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (Dr Yacouba Samaké)
 8. Election of the Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (Dr Theogen Rutagwenda)
 9. Recommendations of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Lomé (Togo) from 18 to 22 February 2013 (Dr Theogen Rutagwenda)
 10. Perspectives regarding RECs targeted Veterinary Legislation Seminars in cooperation with IBAR (Dr Patrick Bastiaensen, Programme Officer OIE Sub Regional Representation for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa)
 11. Proposal for designation of new Collaborating Centre (Dr Karim Tounkara, Director AU-PANVAC)
 12. Update on the PPR control strategy in Africa (Dr Joseph Domenech, OIE Scientific and Technical Dept)
 13. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of Notification by Members in Africa (Dr Aziza Mustafa, OIE Animal Health Inf. Dept)
 14. Implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway in Africa (Dr Daniel Bourzat, Advisor to the OIE Regional Representative for Africa)
 15. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE
 - African Union - Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
 - World Bank
 16. Other matters
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He described technical assistance provided in the region, notably on: early detection and response to priority diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease; prevention and management of brucellosis, peste des petits ruminants and Rift Valley fever; the regional foot and mouth disease control strategy; drafting a peste des petits ruminants roadmap; and emergency assistance for animal disease outbreaks.

Dr Tibbo outlined current challenges in the region, including: the rapid spread of lumpy skin disease in some countries of the region; fears aroused by avian influenza A (H7N9) outbreaks in China; and disruption to Syria's Veterinary Services.

In conclusion, the FAO representative reported that FAO collaborates with the OIE in implementing: PVS Pathway missions; the Progressive Control Pathway for Foot and Mouth Disease; animal quarantine systems; and import risk analysis.

12. Other matters

Dr Yehia presented the conclusions resulting from the following seminars and workshops: Rift Valley Fever (Mombasa), animal welfare (Beirut), foot-and-mouth disease (Beirut and Dubai), and lumpy skin disease (Lanarca). The conclusions of these meetings were endorsed by the Regional Commission.

Dr Yehia communicated the composition of the working group for the implementation of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for the Middle East. He asked participants to propose members from the private sector that could contribute to the working group. The Regional Commission requested the Coordinator of the working group, Dr Hassan Aidaros, and Dr Yehia to identify the appropriate persons or agencies.

Lastly, Dr Yehia notified participants of the Equine Diseases Training on the diagnosis of African Horse Sickness, dourine, glanders, equine infectious anaemia, and equine virus arteritis, which will be organised by the Istituto zooprofilattico in Palermo. He requested the Member countries that have not yet done so to nominate a participant to attend the meeting, as well as to confirm that they would cover the selected participant's transport and accommodation costs for this training.

Dr Al-Qatani thanked the participants for their contributions and concluded the meeting.

The meeting ended at 5: 00 p.m.

.../Appendix

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

Paris, 27 May 2013

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani, Delegate of Qatar, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Middle East)
2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani)
3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (Dr Kassem AlQahtani)
4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East including Focal Point Seminars (Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East)
5. Selection of a Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the Agenda of the 83rd General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2015 (Dr Ghazi Yehia)
6. Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 12th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (Dr Ghazi Yehia)
7. Organisation of the 12th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in Amman (Jordan) from 23 to 26 September 2013 (Dr Monther Al-Rifai, Delegate of Jordan)
8. Candidate for the OIE Council (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani)
9. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS): status of notification by Members in Middle East (Dr Karim Ben Jebara, OIE Animal Health Inf. Dept)
10. Implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway in the Middle East (Dr Ghazi Yehia)
11. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
12. Other matters



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