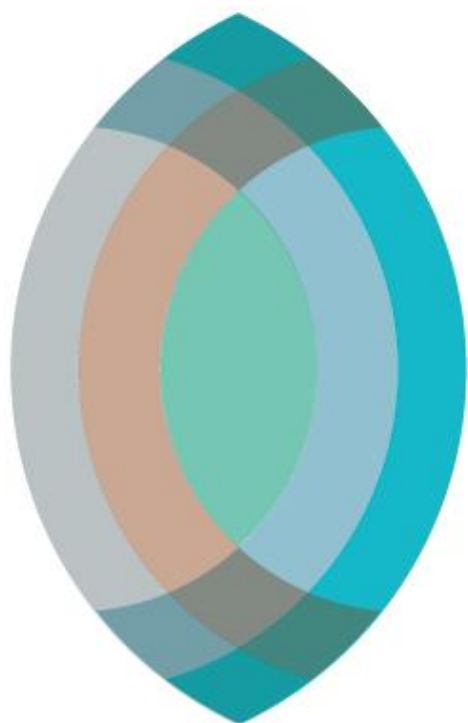


Final Report 2015



83SG
Paris 24-29 May



83rd General Session • Paris, 24–29 May 2015

Final Report 2015

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

Paris, 25 May 2015

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 25 May 2015 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 124 participants, including Delegates and observers from 39 Members of the Commission, 4 observer countries, and representatives from 15 international or regional organisations:

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

Observer countries/territories: France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom.

International/regional organisations: AU-IBAR³³, AU-PANVAC³⁴, AVA³⁵, AVSF³⁶, CABI³⁷, CEBEVIRHA³⁸, EC³⁹, FAO⁴⁰, IAEA⁴¹, ICFAW⁴², ILRI⁴³, PATTEC⁴⁴, SADC⁴⁵, WAEMU⁴⁶, World Bank.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Marosi Molomo (Lesotho), President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, and Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa.

One minute of silence was observed in the honour of Dr Philip Salia, former Delegate of Ghana, and Dr Joseph Mubanga, former Delegate of Zambia, who passed away.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

³³ AU-IBAR: African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

³⁴ AU-PANVAC: African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre

³⁵ AVA: African Veterinary Association

³⁶ AVSF: Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières

³⁷ CABI: Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International

³⁸ CEBEVIRHA: Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish Resources in the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC)

³⁹ EC: European Commission

⁴⁰ FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

⁴¹ IAEA: International Atomic Energy Agency

⁴² ICFAW: International Coalition for Animal Welfare

⁴³ ILRI: International Livestock Research Institute

⁴⁴ PATTEC: Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign

⁴⁵ SADC: Southern African Development Community

⁴⁶ WAEMU: West African Economic and Monetary Union

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

Dr Marosi Molomo, Delegate of Lesotho and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, gave a brief review on the meeting of the Commission during the 82nd General Session. She summarised the most important discussions during the meeting. She also reminded that the World Assembly of Delegates had approved in 2014 the membership application of two new countries from the Africa region: Liberia and South Sudan, raising to 180 the number of OIE Member Countries. She added that Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane, Delegate of South Africa, had been elected Vice-President of the Council.

Dr Molomo then commented on the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan, reminding Members to study the document thoroughly to enable them to take part in the decision on endorsing the plan during the current General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates.

She then discussed the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, held in Rabat (Morocco) from 16 to 20 February 2015, which had been attended by 120 participants, including OIE Delegates and/or nominees of 36 Member Countries, as well as numerous senior officials and representatives of international and regional organisations. She commented on the two Technical Items presented, saying that further topics of discussion had included: the animal health situation throughout the region and the efforts required to enable Member Countries in the region to progress with controlling animal diseases; the tsetse-transmitted trypanosomosis issue; and the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials.

Dr Molomo explained that the recommendations adopted in Rabat would be presented for endorsement to the World Assembly of Delegates at the plenary on Thursday 28 May 2015 for subsequent implementation at regional and global level. She also mentioned that the next Regional Conference would be held in February 2017 in Swakopmund (Namibia), while Cameroon expressed interest in hosting the Conference to take place in 2019.

Dr Molomo said that the Conference had been preceded by a one-day seminar for African national Delegates to the OIE on the development of public-private-partnership in support of Veterinary Services. It was co-funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Dr Molomo said that the seminar had emphasised the need to strengthen partnerships between official Veterinary Services and private veterinarians, and the vital collaboration between Veterinary Services, livestock producers and other stakeholders.

Dr Molomo reminded participants about the elections to be held during the General Session to select the new Director General and members of the Bureau of the Commission, Council, and Specialist Commissions.

3. Report on OIE Council meetings

Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane, Delegate of South Africa and Vice President of the Council, began his presentation by informing Delegates that two meetings of the OIE Council had taken place after the 82nd General Session (October 2014 and February 2015). These meetings looked at major issues of strategic importance for the OIE, including major administrative matters, some of which will be presented during the 83rd General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates in the form of draft resolutions, as well as further discussions concerning the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan (2016-2020). He reminded Delegates that the draft Strategic Plan had been presented at various meetings including the Regional Commission meetings, at the 82nd General Session and at the Regional Conference.

Regarding the General Session, Dr Modisane gave details on the various issues discussed and proposed by the Council in order to improve organisational matters, such as dispatching information and documentation to participants. The Council also requested the OIE to improve media coverage of the General Session.

Referring to the elections, Dr Modisane said that the Council had agreed to monitor systematically the quorum and to issue important reminders to Delegates during any voting process about the importance of attending for the purposes of forming a quorum.

In view of the important elections to take place during the 83rd General Session, he said that, after considering the necessity to maintain or even improve the quality of the Specialist Commissions' work, the Council had supported the proposal that critical competencies, commitment and geographical balance of the candidates were some of the key elements for this improvement to take place. He explained that the Council examined the candidatures in order to give its opinion on their eligibility.

He also reported that the Council had taken the opportunity to interview the sole candidate for the position of Director General.

Regarding official agreements between the OIE and other organisations, Dr Modisane said that the Council had stressed the need to review the relevance of existing agreements and some proposed agreements and had decided that future agreements must include a renewal clause. New proposals will be presented to the 83rd General Session including a new version of the Agreement between OIE and AU-IBAR.

He also referred to several finance and administration issues, including the validation of the revised budget for 2015 for presentation to the OIE World Assembly of Delegates.

Dr Modisane finally commented on the regional and global conferences planned for 2015, some of which have already taken place.

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

Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, on behalf of all OIE Representatives in the region, provided a summary of the activities carried out by the Regional Representation and the three OIE Sub-Regional Representations for Africa between 1 January and 1 May 2015, and their planned activities for the rest of the year.

He began by reporting on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa (RRA), which had focused on providing support to Member Countries in general and, in particular, to countries affected by highly pathogenic avian influenza (Burkina Faso, Niger and Nigeria) and those at risk of its introduction (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Togo), as well as to countries affected by rabies.

He added that the RRA continued to strengthen its collaboration with WHO-Africa within the "One Health" framework and with African Union institutions (AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC, PATTEC), as well as with Regional Economic Communities – particularly WAEMU, CEBEVIRHA and ECOWAS⁴⁷ – and international partners such as the FAO.

The Regional Representation for Africa is continuing to support the development of the regional project on pastoralism in the Sahel (*Projet Régional d'Appui au Pastoralisme dans le Sahel - PRAPS*) in liaison with CILSS⁴⁸ and ECOWAS.

Referring to the OIE PVS Pathway, Dr Samaké said that it continued to be very successful in Africa, with all countries being currently engaged at different stages.

He went on to report that the RRA had attended the seventh Pan African Meeting of Chief Veterinary Officers in Nairobi (Kenya) from 4 to 6 May 2015. The RRA continues to act as temporary secretariat for the Regional Animal Health Centre in Bamako (Mali) until ECOWAS become operational and as permanent secretariat of the Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) for Africa, in

⁴⁷ ECOWAS : Economic Community of West African States

⁴⁸ CILSS : Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel

preparing the 2015 meetings for GF-TADs/Africa (tenth meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of GF-TADs for Africa) and for Global GF-TADs (eighth meeting of the Global Steering Committee).

The Regional Representation for Africa also attended the meetings of CILSS from 9 to 15 April 2015; the 22nd meeting of the Regional Programming and Monitoring Committee; the 50th Ordinary Session of the CILSS Council of Ministers; and the 17th Conference of Heads of State and Government of CILSS Member States.

Dr Samaké reported that the RRA, together with the three OIE Sub-Regional Representations, had helped to prepare and successfully hold the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in Rabat (Morocco) from 17 to 20 February 2015 and the OIE-FAO International Conference for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants in Abidjan (Cote D'Ivoire) from 31 March to 2 April 2015.

The OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa (SRR-NA) continues to support OIE Member Countries in the region to strengthen animal disease surveillance and control by implementing relevant recommendations and strategies.

Dr Samaké said that the SRR-NA had participated in the 10th meeting of the Joint Permanent Committee (JPC) of the Mediterranean Animal Health Network (REMESA), in Heraklion (Greece) from 16 to 17 March 2015, which was attended by around 30 people, including Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs/Delegates), representatives of international and regional organisations and experts from OIE Reference Laboratories for avian influenza and foot and mouth disease (FMD). The agenda of the meeting focused on the priority diseases identified by the region, including FMD and peste des petits ruminants (PPR), as well as avian influenza on account of its recent upsurge. Lumpy skin disease and sheep and goat pox were also on the agenda, as these diseases are attracting increasing attention in the Mediterranean region. A session was dedicated to the good governance of Veterinary Services, emphasising the importance of continuing education for public and private veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals.

Next he referred to the third Executive Committee meeting of the Mediterranean Network of Establishments for Veterinary Education (REEV-Med), which had been scheduled in parallel with the First Edition of the International Veterinary Forum held to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the National School of Veterinary Medicine in Sidi Thabet (Tunisia).

At the 40th anniversary celebrations, the OIE was represented by Dr Monique Eloit (OIE Deputy Director General) and Dr Rachid Bouguedour (OIE Sub-Regional Representative for North Africa), who delivered presentations highlighting the OIE's missions, especially in the field of veterinary education.

More specifically, the third REEV-Med Executive Committee meeting focused on such issues as the status of REEV-Med members' commitment, which was to be evaluated with a view to improving the quality of veterinary education. In this connection, there was a discussion on how to strengthen collaboration with the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE) in order to promote a process for evaluating veterinary establishments in the region.

Dr Samaké also reported that the farmers' crop and livestock health association (Groupement de Défense Sanitaire – GDS France) had invited the SRR-NA to present REMESA and to provide an overview of the main diseases observed in the Mediterranean basin. Around 150 people attended this event and the OIE presentation was well received.

The SRR-NA also participated in the preliminary technical meeting on the FMD vaccine bank for the REMESA region, held on 13 April 2015 at OIE Headquarters. The objective of the meeting was to prepare a concept note – with the support of experts from OIE

Reference Laboratories for FMD – to select, in accordance with the epidemiological situation, what can be considered as “core strains” and “optional strains” for inclusion in the vaccine bank. This concept note will be discussed with the CVOs/Delegates in the region to check whether the preliminary selection meets their expectations.

The SRR-NA also participated in the Inter-regional Conference on “Rift Valley fever: new options for trade, prevention and control”, held in Djibouti from 21 to 23 April 2015, to present a review of the recent outbreaks of Rift Valley fever that had occurred in North Western Africa.

The OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa (SRR-SA) continued to conduct activities and make contributions to the sub-region’s development.

During the reporting period, the SRR-SA participated in several conferences and planned to host a number of training workshops.

The SRR-SA participated in the Conference on Policies for Competitive Smallholder Livestock Production in Botswana on 4 and 5 March 2015, where the Representative presented the OIE intergovernmental standards, providing background on standard-setting and explaining how standards assist Member Countries in controlling animal diseases, animal welfare and veterinary public health, thereby facilitating market access for livestock products. The topic is particularly relevant to Southern Africa where smallholder farmers, who are in the majority, are able to access international markets for livestock products by applying OIE concepts such as zoning (disease-free country/zones). The support given by OIE to the Veterinary Services of its Member Countries by such means as capacity-building, twinning projects, and the overall PVS Pathway was also highlighted.

Dr Samaké commented on the SRR-SA’s participation in the FAO-ICAR African Symposium on “Animal identification and recording (AIR) systems for traceability and livestock development in sub-Saharan Africa”, held from 14 to 16 April 2015 in Pretoria (South Africa), where the SRR-SA presented the OIE standards on animal identification and traceability. OIE’s contribution to animal identification and traceability since the late 1990s, when Member Countries requested the OIE to set standards on animal identification and traceability, was outlined.

The SRR-SA is at an advanced stage of organising two workshops in the sub-region: one on the harmonisation of veterinary legislation (6-8 July 2015) and the other on the preparation of application dossiers for disease freedom (28-30 July 2015). The workshop on harmonisation of veterinary legislation is being led by OIE Headquarters, along with AU-IBAR’s Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa (VET GOV) programme, and its objective is to assist SADC member countries in modernising and harmonising their veterinary legislation to facilitate integration and comply with OIE standards. The workshop on preparing disease-freedom dossiers is designed to equip Member Countries with the skills to prepare an application for disease freedom recognition by the OIE, using FMD and PPR as examples.

Dr Samaké then listed the following activities in which the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa (SRR-EA) was involved:

- AU-IBAR Advisory Committee meeting;
- Steering Committee meeting of AU-IBAR’s project for the participation of African nations in sanitary and phytosanitary standard-setting organizations (PAN-SPSO) (standard-setting, SPS Agreement);
- National policy framework on disaster risk reduction for livestock: a scoping study commissioned by World Animal Protection (WAP) and Kenya Veterinary Association (KVA);

- Launch of the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards Handbook (2nd edition);
- “One Health: impacts, measures and metrics”. Vetworks Eastern Africa in cooperation with the Livestock Development Group at the University of Reading (United Kingdom), with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation;
- Project on integrated surveillance of antimicrobial resistance in Uganda by the WHO Advisory Group on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (AGISAR). Makerere University;
- “Linking veterinary para-professionals and veterinarians in Africa”. Three coordination meetings with GALVmed and the African Veterinary Technicians Association (AVTA) with a view to the upcoming regional seminar on veterinary para-professionals in Johannesburg (South Africa) in September 2015;
- Response to the epizootic ulcerative syndrome situation in the Congo River basin and preventive measures in the immediately threatened surrounding countries. Coordination meetings with the staff of the AU-IBAR’s FishGov project;
- FAO/OIE International Conference for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants;
- Rift valley fever: FAO/OIE Inter-regional Conference on Rift Valley Fever in the Horn of Africa and the Middle East: new options for trade, prevention and control (jointly with the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East);
- Berbera II export quarantine station in Berbera (Somalia). Official OIE visit, together with the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East;
- Annual CVO meeting to prepare for the OIE General Session (common position). AU-IBAR (PAN-SPSO);
- Steering Committee meeting of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) project “Breaking barriers, facilitating trade”, funded by the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF);
- Steering Committee meeting of the European Commission-funded Bee Health Project (International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology [ICIPE] and AU-IBAR); and
- Joint training on sanitary, phytosanitary and technical barriers to trade by WTO and the Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

Dr Samaké said that SRR-EA activities had been significantly affected by the absence, for health reasons, of the Regional Representative, Dr Walter Masiga, between January and March 2015. Dr Masiga resumed his duties at the beginning of April.

He concluded by reporting that the no-cost extension of the VET GOV project had recently been approved.

5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 85th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2017

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 85th General Session:

- “Making the global eradication of dog mediated rabies an achievable goal”

6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa:

- “Pastoralism: opportunities for livestock and challenges for Veterinary Services”

7. Recommendations of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, held in Rabat (Morocco) from 16 to 20 February 2015

Dr Theogen Rutagwenda, Delegate of Rwanda and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, described the outcomes of the 21st Conference of the Regional Commission.

Dr Rutagwenda listed the main recommendations following the discussions of each of the two Technical Items.

The subject of Technical Item I, prepared by the speaker in collaboration with OIE Headquarters on the basis of Member Countries’ answers to a questionnaire, was “*Impact of animal diseases on animal productivity and public health in Africa*”. It led to the adoption of a recommendation suggesting a number of actions, including: Member Countries should consider the methodology published by the OIE, as well as economic analyses, in the prioritisation and planning of animal disease control and eradication programmes, and Member Countries should take advantage of the OIE PVS Pathway, especially PVS Gap Analysis, to advocate proper allocation of resources to Veterinary Services; the OIE and Member Countries should explore options, including public-private partnerships, for increasing the participation of farmers, as well as all livestock sector stakeholders, in disease surveillance and control; the OIE should strengthen its commitment, in particular with National Focal Points, to improve animal disease notification, among other things.

With respect to Technical item II on “*The role of cross-border movements of animals and animal products in the epidemiology of animal disease in Africa*”, a recommendation was adopted by all Delegates suggesting that the OIE, through the PVS Pathway, should continue to build the capacity of the Veterinary Services of Member Countries in the Africa region and that the OIE should continue to provide technical assistance and support for actions to improve the animal health status of countries and regions with regard to the main transboundary animal diseases. It was recommended that OIE Member Countries in the Africa region should progress along the OIE PVS Pathway, particularly by requesting PVS Evaluation Follow-up missions, Veterinary Legislation Support Programme missions and laboratory support, and that Member Countries and Regional Economic Communities in the Africa region should initiate or pursue efforts towards long-term bilateral and regional collaboration, based on complementarity, harmonisation and adaptation of tools to control animal diseases and cross-border livestock movements, in accordance with existing OIE standards.

Regional Commission Members were reminded that the adopted recommendations would be presented for endorsement at the seventh plenary session of the 83rd General Session on 28 May 2015, making their implementation binding on the entire OIE World Assembly of Delegates.

8. Confirmation of the venue of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2017

Dr Yacouba Samaké asked Namibia to confirm the proposal to host the next Regional Conference.

Dr Albertina Shilongo, Representative of Namibia, informed the Regional Commission that her country had agreed to host the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, to be held in Swakopmund, Namibia, in February 2017.

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

Dr Lina Awada, veterinary epidemiologist at the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, gave a brief update on the status of notifications by Members in the region as of 19 May 2015.

She started by providing detailed regional information on the compliance with the reporting for 2014, separately for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases. She went on to show the percentage of Members with outstanding reports and encouraged them to submit the reports, not only for 2014 but also for previous years, emphasising the importance of timely disease reporting by the countries/territories through WAHIS and of providing other epidemiological information on disease prevention and control.

Dr Awada also gave an overview on the diseases most and least notified in the region in 2014, for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases.

Dr Awada highlighted the improvement that had been achieved since 2014 in the report verification process by the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, going on to describe its impact on the quantity and quality of information.

Finally, Dr Awada presented the most successful story regarding notification to the OIE in the region, and concluded by introducing the departmental staff responsible for the validation of the reports for Africa.

10. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

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

Prof. Ahmed Elswalhy, AU-IBAR Director, began by saying that, following the recommendation of the ministers responsible for livestock in Africa, the Executive Council of the African Union had requested the African Union Commission to develop a Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA).

He added that AU-IBAR and AU-PANVAC had led the development of LiDeSA, a long-term framework for transforming Africa's livestock sector.

Prof. Elswalhy reported that LiDeSA had been approved by the African Union Heads of State and Government in January 2015. He said that LiDeSA was aligned with the goals of Africa Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation in the Malabo Declaration (June 2014) and with the results framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

He added that AU-IBAR had secured a financial commitment from the European Union for a three-year Continental Livestock Development Programme (LIVE2) to strengthen the systemic capacities of continental, regional and national livestock sector stakeholders in order to lay the foundation for the implementation of LiDeSA. A complementary programme for coordinated interventions at national and regional levels is under preparation to mobilise resources from African Union Member States and development partners.

He reported that AU-IBAR and its partners had formulated a strategy for African swine fever and a Strategic Framework for the Progressive Control of Neglected Animal Diseases (PROCNADA) with a view to ensuring coordinated and harmonised control of transboundary animal diseases. AU-IBAR assisted the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in formulating a regional strategy for peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and is currently aligning the pan African PPR strategy with the global strategy.

Prof. Elsalwalhy concluded by saying that AU-IBAR continued to support African Union Member States in maintaining animal health information systems and in compiling and disseminating information on their animal health status by means of training and the provision of information and communication equipment. AU-IBAR also continues to support disease surveillance and control activities, the coordinated participation of Africa in animal health standard-setting and the development of responsive policy and regulatory environments for the delivery of Veterinary Services.

European Commission (EC)

Dr Bernard Rey, Representative of the European Commission, highlighted the European Commission's long-standing cooperation with developing countries in the field of animal health.

He said that animal health contributed to major European Union (EU) development objectives, such as building the resilience of the livestock-dependant population and reducing stunting.

He also described the status of the EU livestock portfolio, which met the EU's strategic objectives on food security and nutrition and addressed key challenges and trends in the livestock sector. Dr Rey mentioned that the scenario could change quickly, given that nearly 60 countries had chosen food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture as the main focal sector for the EU programming period 2014-2020.

Finally, Dr Rey emphasised the EU's specific support for a major 2015 initiative namely the implementation of the African Union's Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA).

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Dr Cheikh Ly, Regional Animal Production and Health Officer at the FAO Regional Office for Africa, explained that FAO was implementing projects in the Africa region in line with its strategic objectives, regional initiatives and country programming frameworks. He added that early-warning and capacity-development work were ongoing and were specifically targeted in the upcoming periods at: PPR control and eradication; control of anthrax, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, African swine fever and other diseases; and support for the assessment and strengthening of veterinary laboratories.

Dr Ly added that multidisciplinary approaches had been mainstreamed into FAO's work on animal health and zoonosis control. He explained that dynamic agri-businesses and stronger value chains for animal-source foods were promoted, in addition to livestock sector coordination through sound national and regional livestock development policies.

Dr Ly concluded by saying that FAO supported networks and platforms by various means, depending on the priorities of beneficiaries. Action is aimed at improving the performance of livestock production systems at country level, with appropriate consideration of the animal-human-ecosystem interface.

World Bank

Dr Stephane Forman, World Bank representative for Africa region started his presentation by introducing his colleague, Dr Myriam Chaudron, who joined the World Bank in 2014 and is participating to her first OIE General Session. Then, he recalled the role that livestock and animal health play to achieve the World Bank twin goals of eradicating poverty and boosting shared prosperity.

However, he highlighted that this should materialise more in World Bank operations and investments. Worldwide, and following the 2008 World development Report on Agriculture, investments by the World Bank in agriculture more than doubled, from less than US\$2 billion in 2007 and 2008 to between US\$3 to 5 billion yearly from 2009 to 2014. Unfortunately, livestock investments did not follow the same trend and only increased slightly worldwide.

With 39% of projects and more than US\$1 billion (out of 3.3 billion worldwide) over the past 10 years, Africa is the region investing the most in livestock development, even if animal health, welfare and “One Health” represent less than 10% of these investments.

Dr Forman reminded the participants that the World Bank continues recognising the OIE PVS Pathway as the only pre-operational tool to invest in strengthening the Veterinary Services and that the efforts by the CVOs and Ministries in charge of livestock to convince decisions-makers, including Ministries of Finance, using the OIE PVS Pathway should further continue. He highlighted that the trend was changing, and that, for instance, in the two recent Regional Pastoralism Project (for the Horn of Africa (RPLRP) and the Sahel (PRAPS), interventions in animal health represent 20% of the total investments.

Dr Forman ended his presentation by underlining what the World Bank has done recently to support Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Niger to control the recent re-occurrence of HPAI in West and Central Africa, and how existing ongoing projects can be mobilized to finance preparedness and rapid response.

11. Update regarding the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP)

Dr David Sherman, Coordinator of the OIE Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP), began his presentation by saying that the VLSP was an integral component of the OIE PVS Pathway, which provided OIE Member Countries with the opportunity to assess the quality and scope of their veterinary legislation through VLSP veterinary legislation identification missions and to pursue legislation reform efforts under VLSP Agreements.

He explained that veterinary legislation was an essential element of a nation's infrastructure, conferring the powers and authority necessary for Veterinary Services to carry out their key functions in the veterinary domain efficiently in order to ensure public safety and promote the public good.

Dr Sherman reported that, since the 82nd OIE General Session in May 2014, six new requests for veterinary legislation identification missions had been received, including five in Africa and one in Asia. Seven veterinary legislation missions have been completed, including four in Africa, one in Asia, one in the Americas and one in Europe. Overall, as of 18 May 2015, 62 veterinary identification missions have been requested, 43 veterinary identification missions have been carried out, 39 veterinary identification mission reports have been received and 12 veterinary legislation agreements have been requested, 9 of which are currently active.

He added that the OIE had been actively involved in activities on the regional harmonisation of veterinary legislation through partnership with AU-IBAR and FAO under the Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa Programme (VET GOV). Two seminars were held for Regional Economic Communities on harmonisation of animal disease control legislation: the first for ECCAS⁴⁹ countries in Yaoundé (Cameroun) from 27 to 31 October 2014 and the second for IGAD⁵⁰ in Khartoum (Sudan) from 23 to 27 November 2014. Two additional seminars for harmonisation of regional veterinary legislation are already scheduled, one for AMU⁵¹ in Tunis (Tunisia) from 8 to 12 June 2015 and a second for SADCin Maseru (Lesotho) from 6 to 10 July 2015.

Dr Sherman noted that veterinary legislation had also been introduced as a topic for the training of OIE Focal Points for animal production food safety. He reported that the first such training for Focal Points in the Asia, the Far East and Oceania region had taken place in Hanoi (Vietnam) from 24 to 26 June 2014. The training for the Americas will be provided in Mexico in September 2015 and tentatively, for Europe, in November 2015.

He went on to say that, since the last General Session, a new, second edition of the VLSP Manual for Experts had been prepared and completed. It contains three volumes: Volume 1 – Technical guidance; Volume 2 – Procedures for veterinary legislation identification missions and veterinary legislation agreements; and Volume 3 – Working examples of primary veterinary legislation. It is currently available in English and is being translated into French and Spanish.

Dr Sherman also reported that a training seminar for new VLSP experts had been successfully conducted in Paris, from 24 to 26 March 2015. The purpose was twofold: first, to expand the team of experts available to conduct VLSP missions and, second, to add lawyers and jurists to the team so that future missions would include experts with technical veterinary and legal expertise. A total of 45 participants attended the training session. This included 8 existing veterinary experts, 12 new trainees who were veterinarians and 15 new trainees who were lawyers or jurists. All training was based on the new second edition of the VLSP Manual for Experts.

Finally, Dr Sherman said that there were 14 outstanding requests for VLSP veterinary legislation identification missions. It is expected that, with the expanded team of VLSP experts now available, all these missions will be scheduled and completed prior to the 84th General Session.

12. Update on the implementation of the principles of the High Health, High Performance (HHP) concept for competition horses and supporting disease studies

Dr Susanne Münstermann, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, began her presentation by reminding the participants that Chapter 4.16 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code describing the general principles underlying the HHP concept had been approved in May 2014.

She explained that, in the interim, the concept had been developed further by the OIE Ad hoc Group on international horse movement for equestrian sport and that a model HHP veterinary certificate had been developed and circulated to Members for comment. This

⁴⁹ ECCAS: Economic Community of Central African States

⁵⁰ IGAD: Intergovernmental Authority on Development

⁵¹ AMU: Arab Maghreb Union

model certificate describes the uniform animal health requirements that would apply worldwide to the temporary movement of HHP horses for no more than 90 days.

Dr Münstermann reported that several other important supporting documents had been developed, including: guidelines for equine disease-free zones (EDFZ); biosecurity guidelines; and an explanatory note on the veterinary certificate. They will be further refined and made available to Members in parallel with the comment and adoption processes.

She pointed out that the general principles included in the veterinary certificate and on EDFZs had been tested successfully during the Asian Games in Incheon (Rep. of Korea) in September/October 2014.

She also informed the Delegates that an adapted HHP veterinary certificate had been published by Brazil's Veterinary Authorities for use during the Olympic and Paralympic Games and its test events in 2016 and 2015 respectively. The Brazilian authorities are in the process of establishing an EDFZ for the venue.

Dr Münstermann noted that other countries (Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan) had requested OIE technical assistance for the establishment of EDFZs in order to host international equestrian events in which horses from Europe and elsewhere can participate.

Dr Münstermann added that the OIE had launched a call for proposals to carry out specific scientific studies and research projects on equine influenza, African horse sickness and glanders, which will further strengthen the scientific basis for practical implementation of the HHP concept. The research proposals will be selected in early June and work should begin shortly thereafter.

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

She noted that the OIE ad hoc Group has given special attention to this situation and made provision in the HHP Veterinary Certificate for importation of horses from AHS affected countries. However, more work to strengthen the scientific basis of the proposed measures is needed, such as the validation of PCR testing of horses destined for export and the development of a vaccine acceptable for use in non-endemic countries. She added that it is hoped that the studies previously mentioned will assist in this regard.

13. Follow-up on the PPR International Conference held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in March 2015

Dr Joseph Domenech, Advisor to the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, reminded the participants that in accordance with Resolution No. 24 adopted by the Assembly at the 82nd General Session of the OIE in May 2014, and following the recommendations of the 24th Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and of the 150th Session of the FAO Council at the end of 2014, an FAO/OIE International Conference for the Control and eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 31 March to 2 April 2015. The main aim was to present the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR, prepared by the OIE and FAO. The adoption of this strategy by the participants has laid the foundations for the launch of an OIE/FAO joint programme for the control and eradication of PPR by 2030.

14. Proposal of candidates for the election: (closed session)

Bureau of the Regional Commission:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

President: Dr Komla Bataste Batawui (Togo)
Vice-President: Dr Theogen Rutagwenda (Rwanda)
Vice-President: Dr Karim Boughalem (Algeria)
Secretary General: Dr Gaston Djonwe (Cameroon)

Council:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane (South Africa)
Dr Nicholas Kauta (Uganda)

Specialist Commissions:

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Prof Emmanuel Couacy Hymann (Côte d'Ivoire)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Gideon Brückner (South Africa)
Dr Baptiste Dungu (Congo (Rep of))

Biological Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr Mehdi El Harrack (Maroc)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr Maxwel Barson (Zimbabwe)

The meeting officially ended at 6:40 p.m.

.../Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Paris, Monday 25 May 2015**

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda ;
 2. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa ;
 3. Report on OIE Council meetings ;
 4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and the OIE Sub-Regional Representations for Southern Africa, North Africa, and Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa ;
 5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 85th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2017 ;
 6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa ;
 7. Recommendations of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, held in Rabat (Morocco) from 16 to 20 February 2015 ;
 8. Confirmation of the venue of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2017 ;
 9. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Status of notification by Members in Africa ;
 10. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE ;
 11. Update regarding the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP) ;
 12. Update on the implementation of the principles of the High Health, High Performance (HHP) concept for competition horses and supporting disease studies ;
 13. Follow-up on the PPR International Conference held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in March 2015 ;
 14. Proposal of candidates for the election.
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