

Reports

**of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions
held during the 76th General Session
in Paris, 26 May 2008**

NOTE FROM THE CENTRAL BUREAU

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 International Committee during the General Session that follows the Regional Conferences.

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

Paris, 26 May 2008

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 26 May 2008 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 128 Delegates and observers from 36 Members of the Commission and 2 observer countries/territories, and representatives from 14 international and regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Chad, Congo (Democratic Republic), Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Observer countries/territories: France, United Kingdom

International/regional organisations: AU-IBAR, AVSF⁵⁵, BVI, CEBEVIRHA⁵⁶, EISMV⁵⁷, FAO, FEI, IDF, ILRI, OBP, PANVAC⁵⁸, SADC⁵⁹, World Bank,

The meeting was chaired by Dr Robert S. Thwala (Swaziland), President of the Regional Commission, assisted by Dr William Olaho-Mukani (Uganda), Vice-President of the Commission, and Dr Mokhtar Fall (Mauritania), Secretary General of the Commission and Dr Abdoulaye Bouna Niang, OIE Regional Representative for Africa.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of the regional and international organisations. He also welcomed all partners who support activities in the region.

The president asked for a minute's silence in memory of Dr Jean Jacques Delate who recently died suddenly. He was a special colleague highly committed to supporting animal health activities of AU-IBAR.

The president introduced Dr A. Niang, ex president of the OIE International Committee, to the assembly, informing them that he replaces Dr Samba Sidibé as Regional Representative for Africa and called the assembly to congratulate Dr Sidibé for his excellent work on the region.

⁵⁵ AVSF: *Agronomes & Vétérinaires sans frontières*

⁵⁶ CEBEVIRHA: *Communauté Economique du Bétail, de la Viande et des Ressources Halieutiques de l'Afrique Centrale*

⁵⁷ EISMV: *Ecole Inter-Etats des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires*

⁵⁸ PANVAC: Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre

⁵⁹ SADC: Southern African Development Community

He also congratulated Dr Modibo Traore who has left the AU-IBAR and joined the FAO. Finally, he congratulated Dr Ahmed El Sawalhi who is the new Acting Director of AU-IBAR.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

2. Contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Abdoulaye Bouna Niang, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries are a matter for concern. He said that all contribution reminders have been sent out on time and that it is very important that countries promptly settle their arrears if they have any.

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

3. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa

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

He informed the Commission about the planned activities for 2008 that are built on what was achieved on 2007.

He explained that activities in the fields of animal health, zoonoses, public health, animal welfare and other strategic elements from the 4th OIE Strategic Plan should take priority.

It is important to continue implementing the strategic objectives defined in the 4th OIE Strategic Plan that promote capacity building of Veterinary Services, improve economic and social development, encourage regional and international exchanges, and reduce poverty.

He informed the Commission about the agreement between the OIE and CEDEAO which has been signed in the framework of the OIE Regional Representation.

He encouraged countries that have not yet benefited from a PVS evaluation, to make the request.

The report was approved.

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

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

In line with the OIE's global policy and mandate, the objective of establishing the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa is to contribute to wealth creation in the region. This can be achieved through increased livestock productivity resulting from improved compliance with OIE animal health and welfare standards; these reduce sanitary constraints on trade of livestock and livestock products (LLPs).

The OIE Sub-Regional Representation puts emphasis on raising the level of VS capacity of SADC Member States; providing technical advice on matters of legislation, disease surveillance, notification, and food safety; developing sub-regional networks of OIE subject; providing support to SADC Member States and supporting centres of excellence in the sub-region in order to improve their capacities.

The report was approved.

5. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the agenda of the 78th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2010

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 78th General Session:

The role of Veterinary Services in the improvement of global food security

6. Proposal of a technical item (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (2009)

The following technical item was selected for the 18th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa:

Challenges faced by African products of animal origin in accessing world markets

7. Regional Seminars on Communication

Mme Maria Zampaglione, Head of the OIE communication Unit, reported on the importance of an effective communication strategy for Veterinary Services, so that they are accessible to the general public and other more specific target populations.

She said that the OIE is planning to organise regional seminars to assist Veterinary Services in strengthening their communication capacities, so that they can respond to national and international demands and improve their visibility and credibility. In 2009 two such seminars are planned for Africa.

She announced that there is to be an annual international veterinary day celebrated each year on the last Saturday of April. This was agreed by the OIE and the World Veterinary Association.

8. Confirmation of the possible venue of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (2009)

Dr Adam Hassan Yacoub, Delegate of Chad, confirmed his country's invitation to host the 18th Conference of the Regional Commission in N'Djamena on February 2009.

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

On behalf of the Minister of the Livestock, Dr Abderrahmane, Director General of the Livestock Development, confirmed and expressed the willingness of his country to host the 18th Regional Conference. He elaborated that budgetary arrangements have been put in place.

Dr A. Niang informed the commission about his mission to N'Djamena and confirmed that the preparations are in progress to host the conference.

9. Recommendations of the 1st OIE Seminar on Good Governance for Veterinary Services, held in Gaborone, Botswana, from 16 to 18 January 2008

Dr Patrick Bastiaensen, Programme Officer, OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa, reported on the main recommendations of the seminar on good governance held in Gaborone, Botswana.

This seminar was attended by OIE Delegates from 17 countries in Southern and Eastern Africa (including the Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and the Seychelles⁶⁰), as well as 9 representatives from veterinary councils, veterinary associations and farmers' associations, and representatives from the SADC Secretariat, the FAO and AU-CTTBD.

⁶⁰ Non-OIE member country (observer status)

Recommendations approved by the participants focused on the sound governance of Veterinary Services; the use of the PVS Tool; the twinning agreements with OIE Reference Laboratories; the need to revise and review veterinary legislation in a number of countries; and the organisation and functions of Veterinary Statutory Bodies including the involvement of the private veterinary sector.

The facilitation of regional and international trade of livestock and livestock products was also part of the recommendations approved by the participants. This included a request to the OIE for it to continue the development of standards -based on meticulous risk analysis- in order to enable importing countries to base their import conditions primarily on OIE standards and thus avoid carrying out expensive or arbitrary national risk analysis activities before authorising imports.

10. Update on the ALive⁶¹ and GF-TADs programmes

Dr Alain Dehove, OIE World Fund Coordinator, reported on the GF-TADs - First Global Steering Committee Meeting held on 6 March, 2008 at the FAO Headquarters in Rome. He described the main points coming from the meeting. GF-TADs addresses areas where the mandates of the OIE and FAO join up in the field of animal health. For some issues it is clear which organisation has primary responsibility. He explained that the OIE is the leading international organisation devoted to standard setting in the area of animal health and welfare, and that FAO is the leading technical international agency devoted to the development and implementation of animal health and production strategies in developing countries. For other topics the responsibilities between FAO and the OIE have been agreed upon in the GF-TADs agreement, signed in 2007.

Overall, Africa was identified as the continent with the weakest capacity to respond to an animal health crisis. However, thanks to the PARC and PACE programs, implemented over the past 20 years, most of the affected African countries have been able to cope with avian influenza epizootics. This underlines the importance of long-term investment programs in the field of animal health.

The second GF-TADs Steering Committee for Africa meeting took place in Djibouti in March 2007. During this meeting, it was decided that the GF-TADs for Africa be integrated as the animal health part of the ALive platform. This had the following consequences: (i) the GF-TADs for Africa Action Plan is an integral part of the ALive Action Plan and (ii) recommendation made under the GF-TADs for Africa have to be translated into resolutions of the ALive Executive Committee meeting.

The main outcomes of the 11th Meeting of the ALive Executive Committee (EC11) held in Rome, April 8-10, 2008 were as follows:

- Dr. Ahmed El-Sawhaly, acting Director of the AU-IBAR was designated as the acting Chairman of the Executive Committee until after the next Executive Committee Meeting (EC12)
- a branch Office of the ALive Secretariat has been established in the AU-IBAR Office in Nairobi , Kenya for the interim period. It was also agreed that the Secretariat continues to be hosted by the World Bank for the rest of the interim period.

11. PVS evaluations update in the region

Dr Alain Dehove, OIE World Fund Coordinator, reported on the status of the OIE programme for evaluating the performance of Veterinary Services using the OIE-PVS tool. He also described the specific status of the African region.

⁶¹ ALive: Platform for African Livestock

Dr Dehove clarified that gap analysis is quantitative and PVS evaluation is qualitative.

To summarize Africa situation regarding PVS evaluation:

- 2/3 of Members of the Africa Region have already requested a PVS evaluation;
- 80% of PVS evaluation requested by African countries already done;
- 89% of draft reports for African countries currently finalised (when mission done);
- 52% of all PVS evaluations carried out to date were in Africa.

In addition, to date 12 African countries (out of total of 13 requests) have requested additional assistance from the OIE for gap analysis (assistance on the preparation of investment programmes) and/or review of national animal health legislation. Moreover, two African countries (out of total of four requests) have already indicated their interest in PVS follow-up missions.

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

Dr Francesco Berlingieri, Deputy Head, OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented an update on the implementation of the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) in the African region. He recognized the progress made by the members in submitting reports on time, in comparison to 2006.

He encouraged the delegates to report dated on both terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases. He stressed how important it is that Members provide final reports on the events already notified. He clarified that the OIE expects its Members to submit the six-monthly reports one month after the end of the period; this period is extended to 45 days for the annual report. Finally, he stressed the need for CVOs to ensure a transition when there is a change in the national focal points. He concluded by encouraging the delegates to check the accuracy of the digital maps presented in WAHIS.

13. Presentations of Regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE

• AU-IBAR

Dr Ahmed El Sawalhi, Director of AU-IBAR, reported on the new activities of his organisation stressing the importance of the SPINAP programme and the possibility that in the near future they will be able to finance approximately 47 countries.

• SADC

Mr Beedeeanan Hulman, representative of SADC, reported on the activities of his organisation underlining the development of the livestock sector. He remarked on the Print Project, and the FMD programme.

Proposals on BSE, Commodity-Based Trade and Foot and Mouth Disease were presented to the Regional Commission for consideration and submission to the International Committee.

The chairman observed that these proposals are similar to the ones of the 4th AU-IBAR/OIE African Delegates Consultative Meeting and the ones presented last year to the International Committee. These proposals will be discussed during the Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in February 2009.

- **CEBEVIRHA**

Dr Khalidou Bouba, representative of CEBEVIRHA, reported on the activities of his organisation. He talked about the control programmes for African swine fever, Newcastle disease and animal trypanosomoses and their vectors within the Central African Economic and Monetary Community; he expressed the interest of CEBEVIRHA in participating in activities related to capacity building, to the implementation of a study on harmonisation of laws and regulations for veterinary medicines in Central Africa, and to the Regional Animal Health Centre.

14. Outcome of the OIE Workshop on Rift Valley Fever Control and Preventive Strategies

Dr Gideon Brückner, reported on the OIE Workshop for RVF held in Cairo from 13 to 15 June 2007. He highlighted some of the recommendations such as the application of a proper vaccination strategy, the development of new vaccines, risk analysis, surveillance and effective coordination between Veterinary Services and Public Health Services.

He highlighted the supporting role of the OIE Reference Laboratory in South Africa, Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute, which is the only OIE RVF Reference Laboratory.

He stressed the importance of establishing twinning agreements for RVF in affected areas. He also stressed the importance of strengthening surveillance in animals, taking into account that currently human cases are detected before detection in animals.

15. Outcome and recommendations of the OIE Conference on Veterinary Medicinal Products in Africa

Dr Gideon Brückner, reported on the Conference on Veterinary medicinal products held in Dakar, Senegal, in March 2008. He said that it was a very successful Conference attended by 160 participants from more than 50 countries. Participants were principally OIE Delegates and OIE focal points for veterinary medicinal products.

Recommendations approved by participants focused on harmonizing and improving the registration, distribution and quality control of veterinary medicinal products in Africa.

He explained that some attempts had been made to harmonize veterinary medicinal products in WAEMU⁶² countries but that it was necessary to reinforce and widen this initiative to the whole continent.

He asked the commission to endorse the two recommendations of the conference.

The representative of Sudan announced that his country is organising a workshop on transboundary animal diseases which will be held from 17 to 21 August 2008. Eastern and Central African countries are invited to attend; the invitations will be sent via AU-IBAR.

The meeting ended at 6:12 p.m.

.../Appendix

62 WAEMU: West-African Economic and Monetary Union

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Paris, 26 May 2008

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