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Final report 2018



Reports

**of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions
held during the 86th General Session**

Paris, 21 May 2018

NOTE FROM THE HEADQUARTERS

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

REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Paris, 21 May 2018

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 21 May 2018 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 103 participants, including Delegates and observers from 36 Members of the Commission, 5 observer countries, and representatives from 8 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Central African Rep., Chad, Congo (Rep. of the ~), Congo (Dem. Rep. of the ~), Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Observer countries: Belgium, Canada, France, Italy and the United Kingdom.

International/regional organisations: AVSF⁴⁰, AU-IBAR, CEMAC⁴¹, IGAD⁴², EISMV⁴³, FAO, WTO, and WAEMU⁴⁴.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Komla Batasse Batawui (Togo), President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane (South Africa), President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, and seconded by Dr Karim Tounkara, OIE Regional Representative for Africa.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

2. Organisation of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2019

Unfortunately, the Delegate of Cameroon could not attend the meeting and therefore, was not in the position to officially confirm his country as host of the forthcoming Regional Conference.

Dr Malek Zrelli, OIE Delegate of Tunisia, proposed that his country hold this important regional event and invited all Delegates to attend the conference to be held in February 2019.

This proposal was unanimously approved by the Regional Commission.

⁴⁰ AVSF: *Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières*

⁴¹ CEMAC: *Communauté économique et monétaire de l'Afrique centrale*

⁴² IGAD: Intergovernmental Authority on Development

⁴³ EISMV: *Ecole Inter-Etats des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires de Dakar*

⁴⁴ WAEMU: West African Economic and Monetary Union

3. Update on the Regional Roadmaps for FMD (PCP) in Africa

On behalf of the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Working Group of the FAO/OIE Global Framework for the control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), Dr Laure Weber-Vintzel, Head of the OIE Status Department and co-chair of the FMD Working Group, updated the Regional Commission for Africa on the FMD Roadmaps conducted in Africa to date and those planned in 2018. She briefly outlined the principles of the Global FMD Control Strategy and the division of Africa into five sub-regions (North Africa, East Africa, West Africa, Central Africa and Southern Africa) based on the FMD virus pools. She presented the FMD regional situation as assessed against the Progressive Control Pathway (PCP) for FMD, as well as the progress made in those sub-regions that had hosted two roadmap meetings.

She described the various tools provided by the FMD Working Group to support countries willing to control FMD, including FAO/OIE Guidelines for vaccination and post-vaccination monitoring and templates for developing national FMD control plans. She explained the challenges identified in implementing the Global FMD Control Strategy at the global level, as well as in Africa, and some of the activities planned by the FMD Working Group to address these challenges and gaps.

4. Preliminary conclusions of the Public Private Progress initiative

Dr Isabelle Dieuzy-Labaye, Senior Advisor, Public-Private Partnerships, and Dr Marisa Peyre, Epidemiologist, Deputy Head of the CIRAD-ASTRE Research Unit provided details on the Public Private Progress initiative, led by the OIE with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and in collaboration with CIRAD.

During their presentation they highlighted that:

- The initiative aimed to support countries in their use of public-private partnerships (PPPs) to strengthen the capacities of national Veterinary Services. This is in line with the recommendations outlined in Resolution no. 39 on PPPs adopted at the 85th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates.
- The first step of this three-year initiative (November 2016-2019) included the development and analysis of an online survey targeting OIE Delegates and representatives from the animal health private sector worldwide. The results identified three clusters of PPPs in animal health. Key success factors and obstacles in establishing and maintaining PPPs were also surveyed, as well as participants' expectations for the OIE to assist in the promotion and development of PPPs in Veterinary Services.
- The three PPP clusters in the field of Veterinary Services are distinguished by the type of private partners involved and the type of relationship and partnership governance established with the public sector. Thus, the first cluster focuses on the delegation of Veterinary Service activities to private veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals. The second cluster includes producers' associations having developed regular collaboration with public Veterinary Services. The third PPP cluster involves private local or multinational companies.
- Based on best practices identified, the OIE now intends to produce guidelines to support the development of impactful and sustainable partnerships between the public and private sectors aimed at improving the performance of national Veterinary Services worldwide.

5. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

The President of the Regional Commission presented to Delegates a proposal from the Members of the Bureau and the Council regarding the technical item for inclusion in the agenda of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa as follows:

- Veterinary paraprofessionals: their governance and role in improving animal health and welfare in Africa

He then proposed to Delegates of the region that Technical Item I (with a questionnaire to Members), “*PVS Pathway as an advocacy tool for increased investment in Veterinary Services in Africa*”, which had already been selected at the Regional Commission meeting during the last General Session in May 2017, be changed with Technical Item II (without questionnaire), proposed today in order to provide participants with the opportunity to debate the topic of veterinary paraprofessionals with the support of a questionnaire.

The proposal was endorsed unanimously by the Regional Commission.

Thus, Technical Items for the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa will be as follows:

Technical Item I (with questionnaire): “Veterinary paraprofessionals: their governance and role in improving animal health and welfare in Africa”.

Technical Item II (without questionnaire): “PVS Pathway as an advocacy tool for increased investment in Veterinary Services in Africa”.

6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2020

The Regional Commission suggested the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates:

- The role of veterinarians in combating threats posed to public health and food security by emerging and re-emerging diseases and pests

7. Recent progress on the OIE’s work with Veterinary Education Establishments (VEE) and Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSB) in Africa

Dr Patrick Bastiaensen, Programme Officer at the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa reported on recent progress with VEEs and VSBs in Africa.

During the presentation he highlighted the following:

- The new status adopted by the Mediterranean Network of Establishments for Veterinary Education (REEV-Med for its acronym in French), which expands its mission and clarifies and simplifies its procedures and management. REEV-Med will focus its efforts on promoting the importance of close cooperation between veterinarians in the Mediterranean region for addressing veterinary public health and animal health challenges. They will therefore work on building trust between faculties and on facilitating student exchanges, as well as on implementing joint research activities. REEV-Med also explores cooperation initiatives targeting the Mediterranean basin (such as ERASMUS+ and PRIMA) and encourages faculties to collaborate within the “One Health” framework.

- The network of Deans of Eastern and Southern Africa Veterinary Educational Establishments (ESAVEE) met for the sixth time in Lusaka (Zambia) in June 2017. The meeting was hosted by the University of Zambia (UNZA) with the financial support of the OIE. For the first time, a REEV-Med representative attended the meeting, providing an opportunity for the two networks to share past experiences, lessons learned and future directions. The meeting also took decisive steps towards sustaining the network's activities after the OIE withdraws its co-funding for the annual meeting, which it has supported since the meetings began in 2011.
- The meeting of VSBs in the Southern Africa region (with observers and facilitators from East Africa), which was supported by the OIE and was held in Johannesburg (South Africa) in November 2017. It was attended by some 45 representatives from VSBs in Southern African Development Community (SADC) Member States, where they existed, or else from the government departments that register veterinarians and/or veterinary paraprofessionals (animal health technicians, meat inspectors, nurses, veterinary laboratory technicians). The overall aim was to establish a region-wide network of VSBs able to simplify and facilitate the recognition, registration and licensing of veterinary professionals throughout the region. At the end of the meeting, an electronic OIE Veterinary Statutory Boards Southern Africa Forum was established, using simple and affordable tools such as a *Facebook* group, *Skype* conference calls and a shared *Dropbox* folder. The working group that was established at the same time is currently looking to: review applicable legislation and regulations in light of the OIE day-one competencies and the OIE model core curriculum; and to share procedures, policies, reports and all other applicable information and best practices on the use of the Competencies of graduating veterinarians ('Day 1 graduates') in countries, rules for veterinary and veterinary paraprofessionals which include scopes of practice and minimum standards for facilities (registration, authorisation), minimum standards of training, criteria for the evaluation of training institutions and continuing professional development. The process is driven by the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC), which has been assigned the role of champion and ensures that positive interventions take place.
- The first OIE Twinning agreement between VSBs in Africa, officially launched on 20 April 2018 at an inaugural coordination meeting between SAVC and the Veterinary Council of Tanzania (VCT) at SAVC offices in Pretoria (South Africa). The Twinning arrangement between these two VSBs will last for 18 months. The next scheduled meeting of the Twinning partners will take place in July 2018, again in Pretoria, and aims to produce a joint training needs assessment for the last year.

8. Outcomes of the OIE Sub-Regional Seminar on rabies in Southern Africa, held in Windhoek, Namibia, from 10 to 12 April 2018 and OIE involvement towards global elimination of rabies in Africa

Dr Moetapele Letshwenyo, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Southern Africa, presented the outcomes of the OIE Sub-Regional Seminar on rabies in Southern Africa, held in Windhoek (Namibia) from 10 to 12 April 2018, and OIE involvement towards global elimination of rabies in Africa. The Sub-Regional Seminar was organised by the OIE in collaboration with the Government of Namibia under the sponsorship of the project "Technical support for Namibia in eliminating rabies in dogs", financed by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to assist the Government of Namibia in controlling dog-mediated human rabies, especially in the Northern Communal Areas. The project is managed by the OIE, with technical assistance from the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, an OIE Reference Laboratory for rabies in Germany.

The key outcome was a set of recommendations to various stakeholders summarised as follows:

Member Countries should establish functional high-level One Health (multisectoral) rabies elimination steering committees as oversight bodies at national and sub-national levels. One of the tasks of these committees should be to oversee the development of national multisectoral rabies elimination plans, which clearly outline (with timelines and resource allocations) the activities designed to eliminate dog-mediated human rabies by 2030.

The SADC Secretariat was encouraged to take the leadership (coordination) role for the elimination of dog-mediated human rabies in the region and to prioritise dog-mediated human rabies as a ‘primary zoonotic disease’ for elimination from the region by 2030, using the One Health approach.

The African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), with its continental mandate, should support the SADC Secretariat and Member Countries in coordinating dog-mediated human rabies elimination, by mobilising donor support, and in facilitating inter-regional collaboration in the effort to eliminate rabies.

Development partners should continue to support Member Countries at national and regional levels in order to control and eventually eliminate dog-mediated human rabies from the region, by contributing resources and building capacity.

Specifically, the OIE should continue to develop scientific standards and guidelines to facilitate the elimination of dog-mediated rabies, including considerations for the development of a procedure for the endorsement of an official control programme for dog-mediated rabies elimination, and it should enhance the procedure for the self-declaration of dog-mediated rabies freedom. The OIE should also continue to provide/maintain a dog rabies vaccine bank.

The World Health Organization (WHO) should continue to develop and disseminate science-based WHO guidelines that facilitate the prevention, control and elimination of dog-mediated rabies, and should further develop validation procedures for the elimination of dog-mediated rabies as a public health problem. WHO should advocate for readily available rabies biologicals for the most vulnerable communities and, through its Country Offices, should actively support member countries to prioritise dog-mediated human rabies as a ‘primary zoonotic disease’ for elimination by 2030.

FAO, in collaboration with the OIE, should assist SADC member countries in developing the regional pathway towards rabies elimination and in implementing this regional roadmap (similar to that developed for foot and mouth disease and peste des petits ruminants), and should assist countries in rabies rapid-response missions following outbreaks (Crisis Management Centre for Animal Health [CMC-AH] missions, technical cooperation projects, among others).

9. Update on the Regional Roadmaps for PPR (GEP, PMAT) in Africa

Dr Jean-Jacques Soula, OIE Coordinator of the joint FAO-OIE Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) Secretariat, began his presentation by pointing out that the PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR GEP) had been launched by FAO and OIE in October 2016, in line with the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (PPR GCES). It constitutes the first step towards eradication by 2030, which will make a major contribution to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The four components of PPR GEP were presented to the OIE Regional Commission for Africa last year, at the 85th General Session of the World Assembly of National Delegates on 22 May 2017.

Dr Soula described the main achievements of PPR GEP implementation since then, including: the start of a second round of PPR regional roadmap meetings (five of the nine regions are in Africa); the launch of a PPR Advisory Committee and a PPR Global Research and Expertise Network; and the thermotolerant PPR vaccines workshop. He added that the countries had been supported in drafting their PPR National Strategic Plans, in line with the PPR GCES and with the Pan-African strategy and programme for the control and eradication of PPR.

These steps were facilitated by the support of AU-IBAR and the African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (PANVAC).

He added that FAO and the OIE had endorsed a PPR resource mobilization and marketing strategy to facilitate fund-raising. To this end, a social media campaign was launched by FAO and the OIE in December 2017 and the two videos on PPR eradication were shown.

Dr Soula announced that FAO and the OIE would organize a global conference on “Partnering and investing for a PPR-free world”. This high-level event will take place in Brussels (Belgium) on 6-7 September 2018, hosted by the European Commission. The objectives are to: reaffirm international political commitment to globally eradicate PPR by 2030; provide a forum for governments to confirm their political commitment; and obtain commitment and support from resource partners.

He concluded by mentioning the OIE dedicated tool linking the PVS Pathway with PPR GEP and the procedures for official recognition of PPR free status and for endorsement of national official control programmes for PPR.

Discussions

The issues raised by the Delegates on the various technical topics in the agenda were discussed and clarified as follows:

- Regarding FMD, not many Roadmaps meetings were organised for Western Africa countries because the disease was not considered as a priority in the sub-region. Therefore, it was difficult to get donor funding supporting the planning of any FMD-related activity in the sub- region.
- When it comes to the serotype O identified in Africa and the way it could affect the FMD pool in the region, it was mentioned that, although globalisation influences long distance spread of this serotype, so far, no changes in the virus pool categories were foreseen.
- Regarding possibilities to establish Veterinary Education Establishments (VEE) and Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSB) networks in Africa, it was underlined that current initiatives had been triggered by countries’ demand and thus, it was up to them to show interest and request joining such networks. It was also reminded that guidelines were available for all countries on this matter and they were encouraged to read them and to ask any support, if needed.
- Regarding rabies, it was reminded that the Global Strategic Plan to Prevent Human Death from Dog transmitted Rabies by 2030, launched in September 2017, would soon be published.

- Regarding PPR control strategy, all African countries currently either have an endorsed plan by the OIE and FAO, or have already drafted their plan with the contribution of AU-IBAR.

10. Election Procedure for the Council, the Regional Commissions and the Specialist Commissions

Mr Rodney de Souza, Head of the OIE Strategic Partnerships and Legal Affairs Unit, presented the main aspects of the election process. He pointed out that the 86th General Session provided an opportunity to elect members of the Council, the Bureaux of the Regional Commissions and Specialist Commissions, in application of the new candidate evaluation procedure adopted last year. Drs Karin Schwabenbauer and Kamal Tag El Sir El Sheikh, both Council members, were appointed as members of the Credentials Committee and as scrutineers during the elections to take place on Friday 25 May.

The plan was for the elections to each governing body to be held electronically, sequentially, and position by position. This would allow the Assembly, if necessary, to agree on a different method, depending on the number of applications and the configuration of the election.

Each Regional Commission was invited to announce its nominations for the new Bureau and the Council on the evening of the conference (Monday, 21 May 2018), together with the final list of selected candidates for the Specialist Commissions.

11. Proposal of candidates for the elections (Closed session)

Council:

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

Dr Komla Batassé Batawui (Togo)

Bureau of the Regional Commission:

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

President: Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela (Democratic Republic of Congo)

Vice-President: Dr Malek Zrelli (Tunisia)

Vice-President: Dr Letlhogile Modisa (Botswana)

Secretary General: Dr Mbargou Lo (Senegal)

Specialist Commissions:

Following the discussion during the meeting of the Regional Commission, in agreement with the Delegate of their respective country, some candidates from the Region were removed from the “List of Candidates Eligible for Nominations for Election to the Specialist Commissions”. The candidates removed from the list will not be proposed for election on Friday 25 May. The candidates below mentioned will be proposed for election on Friday 25 May.

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

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

Dr Salah Hammami (Tunisia)

Dr Babiker Abbas (Sudan)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

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

Dr Kevin William Christison (South Africa)

Biological Standards Commission

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

Dr Mehdi El Harrak (Morocco)
Dr Emmanuel Couacy-Hymann (Côte-d'Ivoire)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

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

Dr Baptiste Kimbenga Dungu (South Africa)
Dr Misheck Mulumba (Zambia)

The meeting officially ended at 6:10 p.m.

.../Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Paris, 21 May 2018**

Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Organisation of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2019
3. Update on the Regional Roadmaps for FMD (PCP) in Africa
4. Preliminary conclusions of the Public Private Progress initiative
5. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa
6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 88th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2020
7. Recent progress on the OIE's work with Veterinary Education Establishments (VEE) and Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSB) in Africa
8. Outcomes of the OIE Sub-Regional Seminar on rabies in Southern Africa, held in Windhoek, Namibia, from 10 to 12 April 2018 and OIE involvement towards global elimination of rabies in Africa
9. Update on the Regional Roadmaps for PPR (GEP, PMAT) in Africa
10. Election Procedure for the Council, the Regional Commissions and the Specialist Commissions
11. Proposal of candidates for the elections (Closed session)

