



Organisation
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de la Santé
Animale

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Organisation
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Health

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Animal

Rights and Responsibilities to OIE of National Delegates and Focal Points

Regional Training Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products

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Plan:

- Statutory aspects
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Developing and updating of international standards
- National focal points roles

STATUTORY ASPECTS

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Organic position

- The OIE is subject to the authority of the **World Assembly of Delegates** (International Agreement of 1924 – Article 2)
- The Delegate is **appointed by the Government of the Member Country** and represents it to the Assembly (Organic Statutes – Article 6)
- The permanent Delegate is a **technical representative** chosen by the State taking into account his/her capabilities regarding **animal health and veterinary public health**.

STATUTORY ASPECTS



Organic position

- The World Assembly **shall meet periodically at least once a year (General Session)** (Organic Statutes – Article 7).
- The permanent Delegate **heads the Delegation** of the Member Country to the World Assembly of Delegates (Organic Rules – Article 4)

RIGHTS AND RESPONSABILITIES

RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES OF DELEGATES *World Assembly*

- The Delegate is a **permanent Delegate** who enjoys permanent and full rights to **represent the Country** on the World Assembly of Delegates (General Session) and to **maintain permanent relations along the year with the OIE.**
- The Delegate is considered as **empowered with national prerogatives to represent its country** having permanently the corresponding national status.

RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES OF DELEGATES *World Assembly*

- The Delegate **exercises the right to vote** of the Member Country. He/She shall have one vote in each ballot.
- He/She could / may be accompanied by an alternate ("**Accredited Delegate**" by **Ministerial notification**) who, in case of hindrance of the Delegate, enjoys the same prerogatives (Organic Rules – Article 5)
- Loss of the status of Delegate results in the termination of any elected office that the Delegate may have held in the governing bodies of the Organisation (Assembly, Presidency, Council, Regional Commissions)

Rights & Responsibilities of Delegates

Payment of contributions



The Delegate must guarantee the **regular payment** of the Member's compulsory contributions to the OIE.

He or she must respond the Headquarters to:

- **Call for Contributions** for the next financial year (letter sent in June, after the general Session)

Then, if applicable (more than two years of arrears):

- **Recall for Contributions** (reminder sent in October for the transfer of unpaid contributions)

The same letters are sent to the Ministers in charge of Foreign Affairs and Agriculture/Livestock through diplomatic channel.

RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES OF DELEGATES

maintaining permanent relations with OIE

Animal Health Information

- Present a **report on animal health situation and prophylaxis methods** applied at country to the Assembly (General Rules – Article 50)
- **Notify to OIE animal diseases** present within the territory of the Member Country, in accordance with Chapter 1.1. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and *Aquatic Animal Health Code*.
- As soon as the Delegate is appointed, a **confidential login and password** are assigned by the OIE in order to enable him/her to **access to WAHIS** (OIE secure access system) and to **notify the diseases and other events online**.

Rights & Responsibilities of Delegates
maintaining permanent relations with OIE

OIE Standards

- Ensure that **animal health legislation** in his/her country is **based on OIE reference standards** or on a scientific risk analysis carried out in accordance with Section 2 of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*.
- Ensures that **the resolutions of the World Assembly of Delegates** are properly applied.

Rights & Responsibilities of Delegates
maintaining permanent relations with OIE

OIE Standards (Continuation)

- Ensure that Veterinary Services of his/her Country respect OIE standards.
- Maintain informed the **national animal disease diagnostic laboratories** of the activities of the OIE worldwide network of **Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres**, in order to promote scientific and technical cooperation in this field.

RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES OF DELEGATES *maintaining permanent relations with OIE*

Focal points

- The Delegate is requested to **designate, if possible, national “focal points”** to comply with national obligations and to support him/her in the following fields:
 - animal disease notification,
 - wildlife,
 - aquatic animals diseases,
 - veterinary products,
 - animal production food safety,
 - animal welfare,
 - communication.

Rights & Responsibilities of Delegates *Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres*

- **Applications** for the title of Reference Laboratory or Collaborating Centre of the OIE shall be submitted to the Director General by the Delegate of the Member Country to which the laboratory belongs.
- Regarding **twinning projects**, the agreement of the OIE Delegates of the countries of the Parent Laboratory and of the Candidate Laboratory will be sought.

Rights & Responsibilities of Delegates
at regional level



- Remain in regular contact with the OIE **Regional or Sub-Regional Representation** to which their country depends on.
- Participate, as far as possible, to the meetings of the **Regional Commission** (Regional Conference) to which the country belongs (Africa; the Americas; Asia, the Far East and Oceania; Europe; and the Middle East).

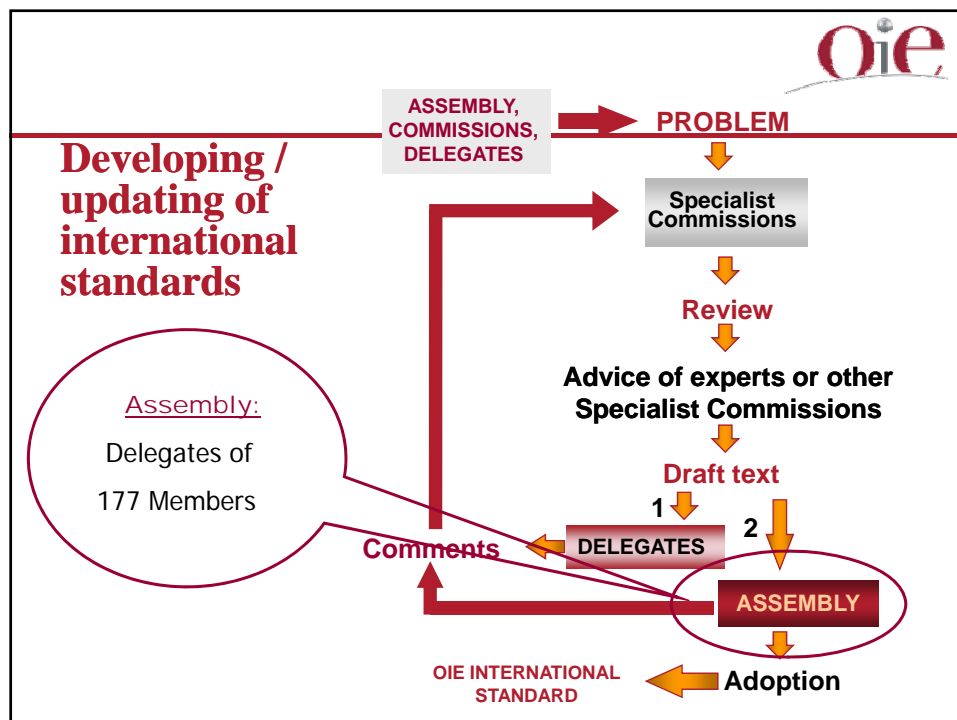


**DEVELOPING AND
UPDATING
OF INTERNATIONAL
STANDARDS**

Developing and updating of international standards



- ◆ **issue / problem identified** by Delegates, OIE Commission, other international/regional organisations
 - ⇒ New scientific information, e.g. from research or disease outbreak
 - ⇒ New diseases – emerging diseases
 - ⇒ New approach to control, e.g. vaccination
- ◆ addressed by **appropriate Commission** as a new or revised standard
 - ⇒ Using **Working Groups** and **Ad hoc** Groups, if needed, for specialist tasks, e.g. animal welfare, BSE, epidemiology, avian influenza, tuberculosis...







Critically important

- OIE Delegates should realise and accept their **responsibility to participate actively** in the debate and setting of international standards
- Once a standard is adopted the Delegate is **obligated to support** the adopted standard
- Focal points have an important role in the standard setting procedure, through the **preparation of comments for the Delegate** for new or revised OIE standards

NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS ROLES

Terms of Reference for the OIE National Focal Points

During the 76th General Session in May 2008 the Assembly:

- reiterated the importance of focal point for animal diseases notification
- requested to nominate additional focal points for, wildlife, veterinary products, animal production food safety, animal welfare and aquatic animals.

The appointment of focal points to the OIE should be only done by the National Delegate.

From a legal perspective, the OIE considers the official OIE Delegate to be the unique representative of the country.

Terms of Reference for the OIE National Focal Points



- **Activities** of the focal points in relation with OIE Rights and Responsibilities of Delegates are under the **authority of the OIE Delegate**.
- **Information transmitted** to the OIE from focal points must be under the **official supervision of the OIE Delegate** either if focal points are:
 - under jurisdiction of the Veterinary Authority, or
 - located in other Departments or Ministries not under jurisdiction of Veterinary Authority
- The delegate is requested to authorize the focal points to use the **private site of the OIE Delegates** (Delegate's site)

Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification to the OIE



- Ensure the optimal **collection and submission** of information on relevant animal diseases
- Act as a direct **contact** point with the OIE Animal Health **Information Department**.
- In charge of animal disease **notification** to the OIE.
- They should be preferably the responsible of the **National Epidemiological Unit**.
- Key players in WAHIS through optimal use of the **online notification system**.

Focal Points for

Animal Disease Notification to the OIE (contd)



- **Information providers** to OIE and through the OIE to the rest of the world and they play a major role at the national level to gather good quality information needed to be processed into **WAHIS**.
- **OIE Delegate could give access** to WAHIS secure web application his/her focal points.
- **Kinds of online access** that can be given by the Delegate to the Focal Points:
 - to notify on **terrestrial** animal diseases
 - to notify on **aquatic** animal diseases
 - to notify on **wild** animal diseases.

National Focal Point for

Aquatic Animals



- Establish a **network** of aquatic animal health experts within his country or to communicate with existing network;
- Establish a **dialogue, cooperation and communication** with Competent Authority for aquatic animal health;
- Support **collection and submission** of aquatic animal disease information to the OIE through WAHIS in relation with the Focal Point for terrestrial animal disease notification (when relevant).

National Focal Point for Aquatic Animals (contd)



- Act as a **contact point** with the OIE Animal Health Information Department in relation with terrestrial animal disease notification (when relevant).
- Receive reports of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission and other relevant reports, and conduct the **in-country consultation process**.
- **Prepare comments** for the Delegate on relevant meeting reports, including comments on the proposals for new or revised OIE sanitary standards related to aquatic animals.

National Focal Point for Animal Welfare



- Establish a **network** of animal welfare experts within his country or communicate with existing network;
- Establish a **dialogue, cooperation and communication** with Competent Authority for animal welfare;

*National Focal Point for
Animal Welfare (contd)*



- Receive reports of the Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission and of the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group and other relevant reports and **conduct the in-country consultation process**
- **Prepare comments** for the Delegate on relevant meeting reports, including comments on the proposals for new or revised OIE standards related to animal welfare

*National Focal Point for
Animal Production Food Safety*



- Establish a **network** of Animal Production Food Safety experts within his/her country or communicate with existing network;
- Establish a **dialogue, cooperation and communication** with Competent Authority for Animal Production Food Safety;

*National Focal Point for
Animal Production Food Safety (contd)*



- Receive reports of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission) and of the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety and other relevant reports and conduct the **in-country consultation process**
- Prepare **comments** for the Delegate on relevant meeting reports, including comments on the proposals for new or revised OIE standards related to Animal Production Food Safety

*National Focal Point for
Wildlife*



- Establish a **network** of wildlife experts within his/her country or communicate with existing network;
- Establish a **dialogue, cooperation and communication** with Competent Authority for wildlife;
- Support **collection and submission of wildlife disease information** to the OIE through WAHIS (immediate notifications and follow-up reports, six-monthly reports, and annual questionnaires).

National Focal Point for Wildlife (contd)



- Act as a **contact point** with OIE Animal Health Information Department and Scientific and Technical Department on matters related to information on wildlife and wildlife diseases;
- Receive reports of Working Group on Wildlife Diseases, selected reports of Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and other relevant reports, and conduct the **in-country consultation process**;
- Prepare **comments** for the Delegate on relevant meeting reports, including comments on the proposals for new or revised OIE standards related to wildlife.

National Focal Point for Veterinary Products



- Establish a **network** of veterinary products experts within his country or communicate with existing network;
- Establish a **dialogue, cooperation and communication** with Competent Authority for veterinary products;
- Monitor **legislation on and control** of veterinary products to ensure that these are in support of OIE international standards, guidelines and recommendations;

National focal point for Veterinary Products (contd)



- Act as a **contact point** with the OIE on matters related to veterinary products;
- Receive reports of the VICH activities and copies of the reports of the Biological Standards Commission and other relevant reports and conduct the **in-country consultation process**
- Prepare **comments** for the Delegate on relevant meeting reports, including comments on the proposals for new or revised OIE standards related to Veterinary Products

Thanks for your attention



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