GROUP 4 OIE FOCAL POINTS DISCUSSION GROUP

CHAIR: RSA

SEC: NIGERIA

List of the countries represented in the Group

- Ghana
- Ethiopia
- Malawi
- Nigeria (Rapporteur)
- South Africa (Chair)
- Swaziland
- Tanzania
- Zambia

1. Which part of vet medicine is regulated in your country?

- All countries in the group have legislation in place for VMP, however, a few countries do not register VMP but rely on what has been registered in other countries for marketing authorization in their territory
- Most countries in the group have the responsibility for registration and importation of VMP shared between Ministry of Health and Agriculture
- Most countries in the group have authorization process to register retail premises for VMP
- Even in countries where there is pharmacovigilance in place for human medicinal products, there is none for VMP

2. Do you know in your country the different partners in charge of VMP

- From the discussions, it could be concluded that all the members of the group knew very well the different partners in charge of VMP in their respective countries.

3. How do you consider your task and responsibilities in this area

- The Group considers necessary to liaise with our CVOs to encourage harmonization of our policies and legislation on VMP to be in line with OIE/VICH guidelines on VMP.
- The Group considers that the focal points for veterinary products need to read and contribute to all the new standards that the OIE may set regarding VMP regulations.
- The Group considers necessary to work under the CVO to enhance networking with other relevant stakeholders on VMP control in our various countries in order to collaborate effectively in ensuring the proper implementation of the OIE/VICH guidelines on VMP.

4. In your opinion what are the prioritized needs for implementation of a veterinary medicinal products policy

- Political commitment of the government of the different countries
- Training workshop on specific issues related to VMPs regulation

5. How to improve the participation of countries in standard setting process and compliance with OIE international standard

- Focal points have to be consistent at meetings/training on VMP so as to be familiar with the standards
- Focal points have to work through their CVOs to gain more political commitment from their government for VMP activities in their various states.
- Focal points have to encourage networking in order to effectively share information of their successes and challenges in implementing VMP regulations with the other focal points for veterinary products of the region and with the OIE.

6. What are your needs and expectations

- From the discussions, the group desires sub- regional training for focal points of neighbouring member states to specifically better understand correct status of VMP regulations (identify the similarities and differences).
- Subsequent trainings of focal points should focus on areas of VMP regulations that could be implemented without much difficulties by sub-regional neighbours.
- Need to work in collaboration with the existing regional and sub-regional bodies such as PANVAC, ECOWAS, AU, SADC, UEMOA, SWAC/OECD, CILSS etc. This will help garner the necessary political support to implement the programmes within individual member states as well as serve as pivotal point when the situation becomes ripe for a regional harmonisation and for the entire continent