



RECOMMENDATIONS

CONSIDERING

1. The definition of Veterinary Services in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, which includes the veterinary para-professionals who should be approved to deliver delegated functions;
2. The provisions of Section 3 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code related to the quality of Veterinary Services, which are therefore applied to veterinary para-professionals, in particular:
 - Chapter 3.1. that stipulates that the Veterinary Services retain ultimate responsibility for the application of these principles, even when the responsibility for establishing or applying certain animal health or animal welfare measures is exercised by an organisation other than the Veterinary Services;
 - Chapter 3.2. on the Evaluation of Veterinary Services, in particular Article 3.2.5 that highlights the need of the evaluation of the appropriateness of the qualified skills to the tasks undertaken by Veterinary Services;
3. The provisions of the Chapter 3.2. of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, in particular Article 3.2.12 in which the evaluation of the role of the Veterinary Statutory Body should be done with regard (1) to the licensing or registration of veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals, (2) to the minimum standards of education, and (3) to the standards of professional conduct and competence of veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals;
4. The recommendations of the third OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education and the role of the Veterinary Statutory Bodies, held in Foz de Iguazu (Brazil) on December 4-6, 2013;
5. The recommendations of the 14th conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, held in Arusha (Tanzania) on January 23-26, 2001;

6. The conclusions and recommendations of the regional seminar jointly organized by the OIE, the FAO and the AU-IBAR on Animal Health Policies, Evaluation of Veterinary Services and Role of Livestock Farmers in the surveillance of animal diseases, held in Ndjamena (Chad) on February 13-15, 2006;
7. The outcomes of past PVS evaluations conducted in 51 African countries which highlight the lack of well-trained staff in the Veterinary Services as well as the weakness of the interactions between the parties interested in the implementation of animal health policies;

RECOGNIZING

8. The crucial role of the veterinary para-professionals, as parties of the Veterinary Services, for efficient implementation of national Animal Health policies and programmes;
9. The diversity of categories of veterinary para-professionals that exist and the need of harmonization in particular with regard to their qualifications relative to their scope of work, duties or tasks;
10. The need of Veterinary Statutory Bodies to comply with OIE standards (Chapter 3.2., Article 3.2.12.) with attributions given by the law;
11. The important contributions *community-based animal health workers* (CAHW) could make, especially in remote territories, to the delivery of a variety of services under the responsibility of the Veterinary Services;
12. The need to deal with the impediments to the delivery of veterinary services in all corners of the country and the need to improve working relationships between veterinarians, veterinary para-professionals and other actors such as the CAHW.

PARTICIPANTS RECOMMEND :

To the Veterinary Authorities of the OIE Member Countries:

1. To address the shortcomings highlighted in PVS pathway mission reports, in particular the critical competencies related to human resources, particularly to veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals;
2. To facilitate and, where possible, harmonise the legislative framework for the establishment and management of Veterinary Statutory Bodies where these do not exist or do not comply with OIE standards, or to update it for a better recognition of the issues related to the tasks undertaken by veterinary para-professionals as an integral part Veterinary Services;
3. To support the veterinary para-professionals to establish independent national, regional and/or sector-wide associations, able and competent to represent the profession(s) in the Veterinary Statutory Body or Bodies;

4. To take into account their expectation that the National Veterinary Statutory Body will include veterinary para-professionals in their decision making bodies, beyond the mere registration or listing of these para-professionals;
5. To take into account their expectation that the National Veterinary Statutory Body will define conditions and admission criteria for continuing education and post-graduate education for veterinary para-professionals;
6. To mobilize Veterinary Educational Establishments and Veterinary Associations to develop the required training opportunities for veterinary paraprofessionals;
7. To take necessary steps for the enactment and enforcement of required legislation that will ensure the implementation of these recommendations

To the OIE :

1. To continue to support the OIE Member Countries involved in the OIE PVS Pathway for the implementation of the recommendations made through the OIE PVS missions ;
2. To continue to advocate that donors allocate funds for the continuation of the PVS Pathway in a long-term sustainable framework;
3. To consider developing minimum day-one competences for the various categories of para-professionals that exist, in scope and in level of qualification;
4. To consider developing minimum core training curricula for the various categories of paraprofessionals that exist, in scope and in level of qualification;
5. To encourage the participation of representatives of national, regional and continental associations of veterinary para-professionals to participate in the fourth OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education, to be held in Thailand in June 2016;
6. To take appropriate steps in terms of monitoring progress made in the implementation of these recommendations;
7. To reconvene as appropriate, regular regional fora on the role of Veterinarians and Veterinary Para-Professionals in Africa where progress made will be assessed and further recommendations made towards the achievement of the goals of this initiative.