



Organisation
Mondiale
de la Santé
Animale

World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal

15th Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission
for Africa
Maputo (Mozambique), 18-21 February 2003

FINAL REPORT



Office international des épizooties

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List of abbreviations

ADB	:	African Development Bank
AU-IBAR	:	African Union - Interafricain Bureau of Animal Resources
BSE	:	Bovine spongiform encephalopathy
CIRAD-EMVT	:	Centre for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development - Department of Livestock and Veterinary Medicine
COMESA	:	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
ECOWAS	:	Economic Community of West African States
FAO	:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IAEA	:	International Atomic Energy Agency
INGO	:	International Non-Governmental Organisation
MAEP	:	<i>Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et de la pêche</i>
NEPAD	:	New Partnership for African Development
OIE	:	Office International des Epizooties
PACE	:	Pan-African Programme for the Control of Epizootices
PARC	:	Pan African Rinderpest Campaign
PPR	:	Peste des petits ruminants
RVF	:	Rift Valley fever
SADC	:	Southern Africa Development Community
SPS	:	WTO's Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
WHO	:	World Health Organization
WTO	:	World Trade Organization

Introduction

1. On the invitation of the Government of Mozambique, the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa was held in Maputo from 18 to 21 February 2003.
2. Eighty-seven participants attended the Conference from twenty-four OIE Member Countries and nine international or regional organisations. The speakers of Items I and II also participated in the proceedings of the Conference. These were Dr John Edwards, Regional Coordinator of the OIE SEAFMD Regional Coordination Unit, Bangkok, Thailand, and Dr François Le Gall, Senior Livestock Specialist in Rural Development of the World Bank, Washington, United States of America.

Tuesday 18 February 2003

Opening Session

3. Dr Fernando Songane, National Director of Livestock of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, extended a warm welcome to the honourable guests and participants at the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa. He noted that the presence of the representatives of a majority of the African countries and the relevant regional and international organisations, indicates their interest in being informed on the developments in Africa in animal health, which is a vital socio-economic field.
4. Dr Songane stressed that livestock plays a preponderant role in improving the population's quality of life and poverty alleviation, topics that would be discussed during the Conference. He referred to the OIE and other technical organisations, such as the AU/IBAR, FAO, WHO, IAEA and others, including the cooperation partners funding these efforts, as contributors to the improvement of the quality of African countries' Veterinary Services, in view of enabling them to better face the challenges that the world market puts before them.
5. In conclusion, Dr Songane wished all the participants fruitful discussions and successful deliberations that would meet the concerns of the African citizens. He then asked the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to say a few words.
6. Dr Emily Mogajane, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, on behalf of all the Delegates, thanked the Government of Mozambique for its kind invitation to hold this 15th Conference in Maputo. She expressed her pleasure at the positive attendance from African representatives.
7. The President recalled that Africa is faced with challenges of poverty alleviation, rural development and food security. Agriculture sustains food security, which embraces food production, stability of supply and access to food. Despite the importance of livestock and its contribution to the economy and livelihoods, the productivity of livestock is poor. One of the main constraints to more efficient use of livestock is animal disease; most of the animal diseases of economic importance occur in Africa. In addition, there are continued cuts in budgets allotted to Veterinary Services. The level of participation at OIE activities could decrease on a yearly basis.
8. In conclusion, Dr Mogajane stressed the importance of sharing information with colleagues to ensure that all countries are in a position to control animal diseases in Africa. Greater support needs to be given to veterinary officials to ensure food security, obtain access to markets and improve the economic conditions of African countries. Dr Mogajane wished participants a successful conference.
9. On behalf of the OIE International Committee, Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE, extended his sincere thanks to the Authorities of Mozambique for their warm welcome and expressed his gratitude in particular to Dr Songane and to the Delegate of Mozambique.

10. The Director General then gave a brief overview of the technical items and other topics on the agenda that would be discussed during the Conference. He underlined the importance of livestock movement control and the links between poverty alleviation and animal disease control programmes. He added that the main donors consider Veterinary Services to be a public good and that the time has come to repair the damage resulting from structural adjustments. He proposed to the Conference to give its support to projects presented by the African Union in this respect. The Director General recalled the new role of the Regional Representation for Africa, as well as its sub-regional projects, and informed participants of a draft official Agreement between the OIE and SADC. He also mentioned the Recommendations adopted during the Seminars in Addis Ababa and Tunis (World Veterinary Congress) and their distribution during the Conference.
11. In conclusion, Dr Vallat extended his thanks to the African Union and the European Union for the support they accord the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and the Central Bureau.
12. His Excellency, João Carrilho, Vice-Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of Mozambique, welcomed the participants to the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, remarking that it was an honour for his country to host, for the first time, this important event. He then outlined the main points of the Conference:
 - To delineate the common strategies for the control of animal movements in view of improving animal disease control;
 - Poverty alleviation and food safety in the Sub-Saharan region through the efficient control of animal diseases;
 - To survey the animal health status in the region during 2002.
13. The Vice-Minister also made reference to the effects of war in Mozambique over 16 years, and the fact that cattle numbers were reduced from 1,400,000 to about 300,000 head; other livestock species were also severely devastated. Thanks to the efforts of the Government with the support of economic partners, the livestock situation shows encouraging improvement.
14. His Excellency then referred to natural calamities, particularly the floods in 2000, which destroyed the livestock infrastructure mainly in the southern region; this was the origin of outbreaks of OIE List A and List B diseases. Of note is the establishment of the National Directorate of Livestock's Veterinary Epidemiology Unit, which gave a considerable impulse to actions relating to animal disease control.
15. His Excellency also underlined the need for a major interaction with Mozambique's neighbouring countries and with other countries world-wide in view of outlining common hunger fighting measures.
16. Finally, the Vice-Minister expressed his confidence in the outcome of this meeting, from which recommendations will result. He then declared the Conference officially open.
17. The texts of the above speeches were distributed to all participants.

Election of the Conference Committee

18. The participants elected the following Conference Committee:

Chairman: Dr Fernando Songane (Mozambique)
Vice-Chair (person): Dr Hamadou Saidou (Cameroon)
Rapporteur General: Dr Ahmed Mustafa Hassan (Sudan)

Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Timetable

19. The Provisional Agenda and Timetable were adopted.

Designation of Session Chairpersons and Rapporteurs

20. Chairpersons and Rapporteurs were designated for the Technical Items and animal health status as follows:

Item I: Dr Cheikh Fall (Senegal), Chairman
Dr Harryduth Bissessur (Mauritius), Rapporteur

Item II: Dr Abderrahman El Abrak (Morocco), Chairman
Dr Filipe Vissesse (Angola), Rapporteur

Animal health status: Dr Micus Chimbombi (Botswana), Chairman
Dr William K. Toroitich Chong (Kenya), Rapporteur

AU/IBAR Programme: Dr Soumana Diallo (Mali), Chairman
Dr Zacharie Compaore (Burkina Faso), Rapporteur

Animal Health Status of Member Countries in the Region

21. Dr Micus Chimbombi, Chairman of the Session, invited Delegates of Member Countries to report on any changes that had taken place regarding the animal health status of their country since 1st January 2002 and especially since the 70th General Session of the OIE International Committee.
22. The animal health situation in the region, summarised according to the written or verbal reports presented to the Conference, as well as the most significant points or comments supplementary to those examined at the OIE General Session, are referred to below.

List A diseases

Foot and mouth disease

23. In **Botswana**, two outbreaks of foot and mouth disease (FMD) virus type SAT 2 were reported in February 2002, in Francistown District. These were the first outbreaks since September 1980. After a nine-month period of remission, a strong suspicion of FMD, probably due to virus type SAT 1, was notified in January 2003 (estimated date of first infection: 23 December 2002), in Matsiloje extension area, close to Zimbabwe. To date, two suspected outbreaks have occurred in bovine animals, at Matopi crush and Tsiteng crush, and one outbreak in a greater kudu at a neighbouring crush (Strauss farm). As a consequence of these outbreaks and vaccination against FMD in the zone recognised as an 'FMD free zone without vaccination', Botswana's status of a 'country with an FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised' was suspended with effect from 20 January 2003.

24. In **Zimbabwe**, a total of 18 outbreaks of FMD due to virus type SAT 2 were diagnosed between August and October 2001 in the provinces of Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South and Masvingo. After a period of remission lasting several months, the disease reappeared in 2002 and 9 outbreaks due to virus type SAT 2 were notified between March and October in the provinces of Midlands, Manicaland and Masvingo.
25. In **Mozambique**, five outbreaks of FMD due to virus type SAT 1 were reported in November–December 2002 in the provinces of Maputo and Gaza. The previous outbreak in Mozambique reported to the OIE was in 1985.
26. In **Uganda**, 17 outbreaks were reported in 2002. The results of surveillance for the disease showed that virus types SAT 1, SAT 2, O and A were circulating. The preliminary results of tests on collected samples detected a strain specific to Uganda and not found in other countries in the region. Uganda intends to conduct a study to determine the epidemiology of these strains and to characterise them with a view to producing a specific vaccine (for further details, see the report of Uganda).
27. In **Kenya**, 45 outbreaks involving bovines were reported in various districts of the country. Virus type O was the most widespread with 26 outbreaks, followed by virus types SAT 2 and SAT 1 with 10 and 9 outbreaks, respectively (for further details, see the report of Kenya).
28. The **Democratic Republic of the Congo** reported the presence of FMD in bovines and small ruminants in the Bandundu Province. No surveillance programme exists for the disease.
29. In 2002, the following countries reported the presence of FMD: **Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe**.
30. In 2002, the following countries reported the absence of outbreaks of FMD: **Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Guinea, Lesotho, Morocco, Mauritius, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland and Tunisia**.

Rinderpest

31. In October 2002, rinderpest was suspected in cattle in Laikipia district in **Kenya**. Laboratory tests carried out at the National Veterinary Research Centre (Muguga) and the Institute for Animal Health (Pirbright, United Kingdom) invalidated the clinical diagnosis (for further details, see report of Kenya).
32. In 2002, the Delegates of **Chad** and **Uganda** self-declared their countries provisionally free from rinderpest.
33. In March 2002, the Delegate of **Sudan** declared an extension to his country's zone provisionally free from rinderpest.
34. In May 2003, the International Committee will decide on various submissions presented by Member Countries.
35. SADC countries that have not yet provided submission for freedom from rinderpest (**Mozambique** and **Seychelles**) should do so.

Peste des petits ruminants

36. In 2002, peste des petits ruminants was reported in **Benin, Central African Republic, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo.**
37. The following countries reported the absence of outbreaks of peste des petits ruminants to the OIE: **Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia.**

Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia

38. The following countries declared outbreaks of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP): **Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte-d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia.**
39. The following countries declared the absence of CBPP: **Algeria, Botswana, Central African Republic, Egypt, Eritrea, Gabon, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia and Zimbabwe.**

Lumpy skin disease

40. Lumpy skin disease affected numerous countries of Sub-Saharan Africa in 2002.
41. The following countries reported outbreaks of the disease to the OIE: **Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.**
42. The following countries reported the absence of the disease in 2002: **Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Guinea, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Sudan and Tunisia.**

Bluetongue

43. In **Tunisia**, four outbreaks of bluetongue due to virus type 2 were reported in the centre of the country in unvaccinated sheep. The disease was detected on 15 December 2002 and confirmed in January 2003. This was the first occurrence of the disease since September 2000. A national vaccination campaign is under way and will continue until April 2003, using a monovalent (type 2) attenuated vaccine.
44. **Algeria** has not notified any outbreaks since 2000 and an annual disinsectisation campaign against the vector of bluetongue has been carried out since that date.
45. The other countries that reported the presence of bluetongue were as follows: **Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa.**

Sheep pox and goat pox

46. In December 2001, **Morocco** notified the reappearance of sheep pox on its territory, the disease having been absent since 1997. In 2002, 51 new outbreaks with 178 cases were reported in numerous provinces of the country. Mass vaccination of the sheep population of vaccination age has resumed in all the provinces of the Kingdom and the vaccination coverage is 86%.
47. In **Algeria**, the disease continues to circulate in some regions of the country. In 2002, 39 outbreaks and 382 cases were declared. The vaccination campaign launched between March and June 2002

resulted in a vaccination coverage of 42%. In Tunisia, 87 outbreaks were reported to the OIE between January and October 2002.

48. In addition to **Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia**, the following countries reported the presence of sheep pox and goat pox in 2002: **Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Uganda**.

African horse sickness

49. In 2002, **Botswana, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia Senegal and South Africa** declared the presence of this disease.

African swine fever

50. In October 2002, outbreaks of African swine fever (ASF) occurred in **Ghana** in the Zabzugu-Tatale district, Northern Region, in towns and villages very close to the border with Togo. These were the first outbreaks of the disease in Ghana since February 2000.

51. Outbreaks were also notified by **Togo and Benin**.

52. The other countries that notified the presence of ASF were as follows: **Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia**.

53. **Côte d'Ivoire** did not report any outbreaks of the disease in 2002.

Classical swine fever

54. **Madagascar** reported the presence of numerous outbreaks in 2002.

55. For **Mauritius**, the information at the disposal of the OIE relates to the first seven months of the year and does not indicate any presence of the disease.

Newcastle disease

56. **Algeria** reported the emergence of Newcastle disease in four Wilayas in the centre of the country in August 2002, whereas the previous outbreak of the disease reported to the OIE had occurred in 1997. The sanitary measures applied enabled the situation to be brought under control.

57. Many other countries reported the presence of Newcastle disease. These were as follows: **Angola, Benin, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe**.

58. **Namibia** reported that it had serologically diagnosed (without clinical signs) Newcastle disease in ostriches during routine tests conducted with the framework of epidemiological surveillance in farms for export purposes and stated that no clinical signs of the disease were detected, either in breeding stock or in birds raised for meat.

Rift Valley fever

59. Rift Valley fever (RVF) reappeared in certain countries in West Africa (previous episode in 1999). The disease was detected in **Mauritania and Senegal** for the first time at the beginning of November 2002.

60. In **Mauritania**, three outbreaks were reported in small ruminants in the regions of Brakna and Gorgol.

61. In **Senegal**, the disease was also detected in sheep and goats in the Podor and Matam departments, in the north-east of the country. Official information from the World Health Organization reported that FVR had been confirmed in **Gambia**, where accesses of abortions in sheep were reported in November 2002.
62. **Chad** has informed the OIE of the results of a recent study on the status of this disease in animals. The results of monitoring a sentinel sheep herd in the region of Ndjamena and serological tests conducted on various species of ruminants following the collection of blood samples from the abattoirs in Ndjamena and Abéché demonstrated that the virus had recently been circulating in the studied animal species. However, no clinical cases of the disease have been reported in farms with species susceptible to the virus.

List B diseases

63. Although List B diseases are only subject to declaration in the Annual Questionnaire (except in exceptional circumstances), several countries sent us information in the reports they prepared for the conference.

Rabies

64. The following countries reported outbreaks of rabies in 2002 in their written reports: **Algeria, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Kenya, Morocco, Namibia** and **Sudan**.

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy

65. **Morocco** has never been the subject of a declaration of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). Within the framework of the continuing epidemiological surveillance for the disease at the national level, a total of 130 samples from bovines having manifested nervous signs were the subject of testing for BSE as were 80 bovine brain samples collected at random from some of the main abattoirs. To date, laboratory tests have not detected any specific lesions attributable to BSE.
66. **Namibia** reported that surveillance for BSE has been stepped up by increasing the sampling of animal populations at risk, in addition to the passive surveillance already conducted. The measures aimed at reducing the risk of introducing the BSE agent have been strengthened and no findings of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, including BSE and scrapie, have been reported.

Discussion

67. The countries present confirmed the animal health status and disease notification reports already submitted to the OIE, adding specific points concerning the Veterinary Services and relevant legislation.
68. The Delegate of **Angola** indicated that his country is following the OIE guidelines and that they are at present re-organising the Veterinary Services, which are now functional in the entire country.
69. The Delegate of **Benin** pointed out the new decree regarding the creation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, and the order from the Livestock Office that gives more responsibilities to the Livestock Office in the field of animal production development and animal health activities.
70. The Delegate of **Botswana** announced, amongst others, the limited rabies cases that occurred in livestock; no human cases were reported. He underlined the FMD situation and the urgent need for solutions at a regional level.

71. The Delegate of **Burkina Faso** reported on the current situation regarding several diseases and the contribution of the livestock sector in his country.
72. The Delegate of **Cameroon** mentioned in particular the institutional reforms in his country linked to strategies for disease control. With regard to FMD he underlined the collaboration with neighbouring countries; disease surveillance is being stepped up. Privatisation of Veterinary Services is being relaunched.
73. The Delegate of the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** mentioned that since 1996, the Veterinary Services have been undergoing restructuring; the legislation inherited from the past is outdated. Launching a network for epidemiological surveillance of disease is a priority, but due to the war, many parts of the country cannot yet be controlled by the Veterinary Services.
74. The Delegate of **Eritrea** informed participants on the new strategy for disease control, emphasising compulsory vaccinations since 1998. The new approved legislation is to be translated into local languages prior to implementation.
75. The Delegate of **Lesotho** pointed out that studies are being wound up relating to the improvement of Veterinary Services linked to the establishment of a relevant directorate with a shortened chain of command within the Ministry of Agriculture.
76. The Delegate of **Kenya** reported on:
 - the ongoing review on policies, legislations and strategies for the delivery of veterinary services involving the stakeholders,
 - empowering and involving communities and livestock farmers in service delivery,
 - promoting private and public sector partnership in service delivery,
 - strengthening the capacity of the department to provide effective supervision and overall coordination and leadership.
77. The Representative of **Madagascar** suggested that adherence to surveillance networks in the livestock animal health sector should be emphasised. She reported on an almost 80% morbidity rate of the pig herd in the newly infected zones with regard to African swine fever and mentioned that the previous political situation has a serious impact on the spread of the disease.
78. The Delegate of **Mali** completed the report sent for the Conference on 22 January 2003, referring to the success of the surveillance network. He referred to CBPP as a major disease in the region and mentioned the FAO support, as well as the importance of a recent workshop by AU/IBAR to work out common strategies in the region.
79. The Representative of **Mauritius** declared that the adopted vaccination programmes against lumpy skin disease and classical swine fever are ongoing. Important changes were made in the conditions relating to the importation of livestock from South Africa in order to resume trade, which was temporarily halted following an outbreak of FMD in the country. Disease surveillance has been reinforced at border points to prevent illegal importation/entry of pets by travellers. Disease vigilance is also monitored at the abattoir to safeguard public health from food-borne disease.
80. The Representative of **Morocco** referred to the new outbreaks of sheep pox and the medical and sanitary measures that have been introduced. With regard to FMD, there has been no outbreak since 1999 and a surveillance network over the entire country has been developed. Investigations were undertaken to evaluate the possibility of ending vaccination. Furthermore, a new rabies control strategy was drawn up and implemented in December 2002 in pilot zones as a first stage. New programmes on tuberculosis and brucellosis control are to be launched in March 2003 in dairy livestock as a first step.

81. The Representative of **Mozambique** recalled that a policy and a strategic plan were being finalised for the prevention and control of animal diseases. After 17 years, there was a reappearance of FMD in November 2002 and a vaccination campaign is being implemented.
82. The Representative of **Senegal** mentioned the involvement of the private sector since 2002 in connection with disease surveillance; this has been developed with the support of the French government. He referred to the presence of rabies outbreaks and the evolving PPR vaccination campaign, through which 150,000 head of cattle were vaccinated.
83. The Delegate of **South Africa** commented on the reorganisation of the country's Veterinary Services to strengthen border controls and improve food safety.
84. The Delegate of **Sudan** informed the participants on the creation of a new Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries, which will give strong support to the livestock sector. Livestock is a high priority, as it contributes considerably to the country's economy, hence the important government support in the provision of mobile animal health units, amongst others. The PACE programme has been an important development with the AU/IBAR and EU supporting collaboration. Rabies continues to be of concern to both humans and livestock, while rinderpest has not been seen since 1998; vaccination has been halted since June 2002. The OIE published the Sudan's statement on the national status of freedom from disease for rinderpest.
85. The Delegate of **Somalia** indicated the problematic situation due to the civil war. Livestock is a major economic export contributor and must be seriously taken into consideration. He stressed the importance of INGO funded projects, to sustain disease control and the development of viable Veterinary Services in collaboration with Somali professional livestock associations and local administrations.
86. The Delegate of **Tanzania** referred to the strengthening of the livestock sector through the establishment of three directorates:
 - Veterinary Services,
 - Animal production,
 - Livestock research and training.
87. The Delegate of Chad stated that the Ministry of Livestock Production had been re-organised, with the accent being placed on strengthening animal health through the creation of the Veterinary Services Directorate, comprising three divisions:
 - Animal Health Division,
 - Division of Hygiene of Foodstuffs of Animal Origin,
 - Veterinary Pharmacy Division.

With regard to the animal health situation, the OIE report is accurate. Nonetheless, among the List A diseases, CBPP remains a concern. Several outbreaks have been registered in the Lake Chad area. A strategy based on mass vaccination has been put in place aimed at controlling and eradicating this disease. With regard to List B diseases, anthrax and related diseases are a major concern. Rabies is also a concern. A dog vaccination campaign was conducted in 2002 to help control this zoonosis.

88. The Delegate of **Uganda** reported that Parliament had approved the policy on the delivery of veterinary services and the veterinary drug policy. He stressed that this was an important achievement and that it would go a long way in improving veterinary services in the following aspects:
 - Defining, guiding and regulating the roles of the different stakeholders in the delivery of veterinary services, and

- Guiding the rational use of veterinary drugs.

He also reported that disease reporting in the country had improved considerably and that the Directorate was working on a national strategy for the control of livestock diseases, which will highlight the creation of disease free zones in order to target export of livestock and livestock products. He then discussed the situation on various diseases since the report submitted in January 2003.

89. The Delegate of **Zambia** referred to the re-organisation of the Veterinary Services (Department of Veterinary Services and Livestock Development). He then explained the importance of the involvement of the private sector in the delivery of veterinary services in specific fields:
- Tsetse control,
 - Tripanosomiasis surveillance,
 - FMD vaccination.
90. The Delegate of **Zimbabwe** noted:
- The land reform exercise regarding 6,000 large-scale commercial farms,
 - The shift in livestock populations,
 - Specific land disputes and damage of fences leading to FMD outbreaks,
 - Foreign exchange shortages create problems in the procurement of vaccines, drugs and equipment,
 - The drought created pasture and feed shortages and decreases in pork, dairy and poultry production.
91. The Delegate of **Mali** requested information on the new strategy against rabies reported by Morocco.
92. The Representative of **Morocco** replied that animal rabies was circulating enzootically and that a new strategy, recently developed by a specialist commission, was now being used to control the disease. Disease prophylaxis includes vaccination of owned dogs and targeted elimination of stray dogs. At the same time, associated measures, such as the setting up of an interdepartmental committee for rabies control (including the Departments of Agriculture, Health and the Interior), awareness campaigns for targeted populations and the enactment of a specific regulatory text on animal rabies, have been defined and taken into account in this strategy, which as a first step will be applied to pilot areas as a feasibility study before it is applied to the entire country.
93. In reply to a query from the **SADC** Representative on the declaration of rinderpest status, the OIE Director General indicated that countries have the possibility of following the procedures set by the OIE: to submit a dossier that will be forwarded to the elected OIE members of the FMD and Other Epizootics Commission, analysed and then presented to the OIE International Committee for endorsement.
94. The Delegate of **Mali** requested a clarification on the categorisation of blackleg (List C or B).

95. The Director General replied that there was no List C on the OIE lists of diseases, but only A and B. On the occurrence of epidemiological events of interest in a country, the country is free to provide a report even if the disease is not listed. However, it is known that blackleg is endemic in a large part of Africa.
96. An AU/IBAR Representative asked Zimbabwe to clarify the outbreaks of FMD related to land reforms and to indicate the strategies in place to contain spread to other countries. The Zimbabwe Delegate referred to the three meetings recently held to discuss strategies to contain the spread of FMD:
- Support from the military to patrol the borders,
 - Resources will be directed towards export zones.
97. At this stage, the Delegate of **South Africa** informed participants about the consultative meetings for defining strategies under SADC coordination: Zimbabwe, Botswana, Mozambique and South Africa. The Representative from **Mozambique** referred to the importance of always reporting outbreaks to one's neighbours; she also stressed the need to address the problems created by livestock traders in moving and smuggling cattle across the borders.
98. The Delegate of **Burkina Faso** requested information on the situation regarding the dossier submitted for declaration of freedom from rinderpest. The OIE DG invited the President of the OIE Foot and Mouth Disease and Other Epizootics Commission, Dr Gavin Thomson, to respond in this respect. Dr Thomson replied that the file was evaluated by the relevant Commission and that its recommendations will be submitted to the OIE International Committee in May 2003, which will decide on the matter; however, he indicated that he was not concerned about the outcome.
99. The Representative of **Morocco** referred to the report by Senegal to the OIE on the RVF outbreak on the border with Mauritania and requested information on the origin of the outbreak and what measures are being taken. The Representative of **Senegal** indicated that as the disease epidemiology could not be clarified, a laboratory investigation was underway. It appears that the disease was identified in Gambia where surveillance is in place. A surveillance network is operational and prophylactic measures are being undertaken to avoid human contamination.
100. On the request of the Delegate of **Tanzania** for clarification of the declaration of disease free zones, the Director General of the OIE indicated that this will be dealt with in Technical Item I. It relates to regionalisation/zoning standards that are included in the *International Animal Health Code*. All OIE Member Countries have the right to regionalise zones free from certain diseases, but they have to demonstrate the control of animal movements between infected and free zones within the country.

Item I

The importance of livestock identification and movement control to the promotion of animal disease control and facilitation of trade

101. Dr Cheikh Fall, Chairman of the Session, introduced Dr John Edwards, speaker for this technical item, and called upon him to present his report. A presentation by Prof. François Abiola was distributed to participants.
102. Dr Edwards began his presentation by underlining that livestock identification and the management of livestock movements are critical to the control of animal diseases and access to trade in animals and animal products. International standards for the control of animal diseases and for trade in livestock and livestock products are established under the WTO SPS Agreement. The OIE has the mandate from the WTO to set standards, guidelines and recommendations in relation to trade of animals and animal products. Many of the standards are incorporated in the OIE *International Animal Health Code*. These standards pose significant challenges for many developing countries

where OIE List A and List B diseases are endemic and the animal health services have limited resources and capacity to deliver effective animal health programmes.

103. The speaker recalled that Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa were surveyed on aspects of livestock movement control and animal identification. Respondents described variable capacity to implement systems for traceability and management of animal movements. The main obstacles to increasing trade were poor animal health status and the limited capacity of many animal health services.
104. Dr Edwards pointed out that most countries have multiple neighbours and only half the countries actively engage their neighbours in collaboration on livestock movement control. Members indicated that illegal movements are common in most countries. More than half the countries implement charges for livestock movements and incentives to encourage legal movements were used by relatively few countries. The most influential private stakeholders were thought to be livestock owners, livestock producer organisations, traders and exporters. The majority of Member Countries supported improved communication and active participation as the means of increasing private sector support for national programmes for livestock identification and movement management.
105. The speaker added that livestock identification systems and registration of identifiers are in place in most countries; however, low cost traditional identification methods are most commonly used and data is recorded manually in most cases. Cost and cultural reasons are the main obstacles to adoption of more sophisticated methods.
106. In conclusion, Dr Edwards emphasised the need for Member Countries to adopt harmonised approaches to livestock identification and movement management and that improved disease control and increased access to trade will require strong co-operation between neighbouring countries and active participation by stakeholder groups.

Discussion

107. The Chairman thanked Dr Edwards for his comprehensive and informative presentation, and invited comments and questions from the participants.
108. The Delegate of Benin asked for an example on how to apply this system of control to African countries. Dr Edwards replied that he hoped that Member Countries would be able to provide examples.
109. The Delegate of Zimbabwe wished to know whether animal welfare organisations would have an impact on the use of the branding technique for identification. Dr Edwards said that this technique is not very much appreciated by animal welfare organisations and may limit its use in the future.
110. The Delegate of Botswana commented on the need to control movement at the level of individual farmers/holders. The speaker indicated that the need for identification will assist individual farmers to manage their herd and to support the export market. It was most important to manage movements between zones of different status.
111. On a query from the Delegate of Sudan on how countries with multiple borders tackle the problem of transborder movement, Dr Edwards replied that through bilateral relations, the problem may be discussed and solutions found.
112. A representative of Mozambique wondered what incentives could be offered to permit control enforcement. Dr Edwards responded that these include tax relief and removal of charges at check-points. Quarantine stations can provide feed or water to animals at no cost.

113. On the comment from the Delegate of South Africa that it may be difficult to apply this system of control in small communal and local areas, Dr Edwards replied that the risk of illegal movement is certainly high, but efforts should be made to use regionalisation and zoning to advantage.
114. The Delegate of Mali requested the possibility of a case study for the African continent. According to Dr Edwards, a general approach had been presented and he asked Member Countries to now provide specific examples.
115. The Director General of the OIE clarified several issues. It was up to the individual countries to themselves adopt systems of control to address the issues raised in the presentation. He also suggested that sub-regional workshops/seminars could be convened between the OIE and the AU/IBAR to assist in this process.
116. The Delegate of Uganda observed that this topic should be given special attention, as it is an important aspect as far as trade is concerned. The speaker noted that a common element of fear was raised by various participants. Local solutions should come out from past experiences acquired by several organisations that had already carried out work on this aspect of movement control.
117. The Delegate of Zimbabwe and the speaker stressed the importance of livestock identification to animal disease control, as well as achieving and maintaining zone status.
118. A Representative of Morocco requested the organisation of regional workshops amongst the various neighbouring countries to discuss issues appropriate to the region. Dr Edwards observed that neighbouring countries should meet and decide on the transborder control system to be adopted to prevent spread of disease from one country to another. This was consistent with the Director General's proposal and was supported by further comments by representatives from AU/IBAR and Tanzania.
119. The Delegate of Benin requested some clarification on the use of livestock identified as collateral for bank loans. Dr Edwards pointed out that in some countries, such as India, financial institutions grant loans to farmers/holders. Ruminants are then tagged to facilitate identification of the animals.
120. The Session Chairman concluded by thanking all the participants, and then requested a small group consisting of Dr Djabir Adoum (Chad), Dr Rene Bessin (AU/IBAR), Dr Harryduth Bissessur (Mauritius, session rapporteur), Dr Stuart Hargreaves (Zimbabwe), Dr Damien Nguba Kasongo (Rep. Dem. Of the Congo), Dr Adolfo Mavale (Mozambique), Dr William Olaho-Mukani (Uganda) and Dr Inoussa Sanoussi (Benin) to draft a recommendation on this technical item under the guidance of Dr Edwards.

**‘1986-2006: from PARC to PACE
Twenty years of continuity in action and conceptual (r)evolution’**

121. This session was chaired by Dr Soumana Diallo, Dr Compaore (Burkina Faso) acting as Session Rapporteur.
122. The Acting Director of AU/IBAR, Dr Jotham Musiime, introduced this session, recalling the historical moments that marked PARC-PACE:
 - 1962-1976: implementation of the first joint programme for the control of rinderpest.
 - 1981: decision of the then OAU to develop a permanent programme for the control of rinderpest by the OAU/IBAR.
 - 1986-1999: implementation of the PARC programme that made it possible for the majority of countries to be provisionally free from rinderpest. This led to the strengthening of Veterinary Services.

123. The Session Chairman invited Dr René Bessin, PACE Programme Coordinator of the AU/IBAR, to give a brief overview of the organisation.
124. Dr Bessin briefly outlined the main activities of the organisation. The AU/IBAR, a technical bureau of the African Union, is the executive agency for large-scale Panafrican epizootic control programmes financed essentially by the European Union. Over the past twenty years, these long-running programmes have enabled Africa to be free from rinderpest and the last rinderpest eradication activities to be confined to the Somali ecosystem.
125. Dr Bessin recalled that over time, these programmes have evolved in design to become structuring tools both for the Veterinary Services and public hygiene services of African States, as well as for the AU/IBAR itself, which is currently being re-organised. The stakes are high for Europe and for Sub-Saharan countries and involve a strategy of shared interest between sanitary protection of European livestock populations on the one hand and access to regional and international markets for the beneficiary countries on the other hand.
126. In conclusion, the speaker stressed that in order to consolidate the achievements of these actions, existing programmes must be extended and a continental programme set up, coordinated by IBAR and comprising regional programmes in line with the orientations defined by NEPAD.
127. The chairman thanked Dr Bessin for his informative presentation and opened the floor for discussion.

Discussion

128. From the discussions that followed, the points below can be retained:
 - The difficulty of funding projects by the African countries themselves;
 - The submission of the new AU/IBAR organisation chart for appraisal by the national Veterinary Services;
 - The extension of the PACE programme until 2006, which would allow for those countries that were involved in the project at a later stage, to make up their late participation;
 - The Director General of the OIE congratulated the AU/IBAR on its management of the PACE programme, with full implication of the donors, as well as on the results obtained during the PARC programme and the successful passage from PARC to PACE. The objectives were, among others, the reduction of poverty, access to international markets, appropriate organisation of Veterinary Services to comply with international standards.
129. A small group consisting of Dr Daniel Bourzat (AU/IBAR), Dr Yvon Le Brun (AU/IBAR), Dr Bouna Alboury Diop (AU/IBAR), Dr Kamal Hidane (Morocco), Dr Bonaventure Mtei (SADC), Dr Mamadou Racine N'Diaye (Mali) and Dr Ghebrehiwet Teame (Eritrea), were requested to draft a recommendation in this respect.

ITEM II

The role of animal disease control in poverty reduction and food security strategies in Africa

130. The Session Chairman, Dr Abderrahman El Abrak, briefly introduced the speaker for this item, Dr François Le Gall, and invited him to present his report.
131. The analysis of replies from eighteen African Delegates on the characteristics of poverty, animal disease impact, current capacities and opportunities for improvement, confirms the importance of animal disease control in poverty reduction and food security in Africa and details the needs for strengthening it.
132. An estimated 200 million people (consumers excluded) rely on livestock for their livelihoods. The poor are highly exposed to a large number of animal diseases (hundreds of them in Africa) because of a strong pathological pressure (due to climate, ecosystems, animal movements, management practices) and a weak capacity to control them (due to poor policies, organisation, finances or technologies). These diseases can expose the poor to additional environmental (droughts), economic (prices), social (marginalisation) or even political risks. Main diseases are ranked relative to their impact on incomes, nutritional status, vulnerability, access to markets, overall and for each of the main production systems animal species. There are several different types of impacts: loss of livestock productivity (production losses, treatment costs, market disruption), loss of income activities using animal resources (crop, fuel, transport), human welfare (illness and mortalities, food security and quality), cost of prevention (production cost, public expenditures), or sub-optimal production systems (species and breed choices, management practices).
133. Overall, animal diseases exacerbate assets insecurity, limit market opportunity for animal and their products, and limit livestock-based intensification. They also raise a serious issue of public health and sustainable growth, and a major constraint for economic and social development of affected countries. Transboundary diseases, diseases transmissible to humans, and food-borne diseases (priority diseases) are today a threat of particular gravity for the poor populations, the national economies, and those of neighbouring and importing countries (e.g. foot and mouth disease in the United Kingdom). Operational capacities, national and regional, required to insure the core functions on an efficient control, are largely insufficient (staff, equipment, infrastructure, finances). Donors are requested, under the leadership of the OIE, to invest in technical, scientific and operational capacity building for the global control system. The latter has to be seen as an international public good placed under the responsibility of the official Veterinary Services. Recommendations are being made for a global (enabling environment, institutions, investments), collective (national, regional and international) sustained involvement and a clear focus on poverty reduction (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), access to services; strategic research). It is proposed that a significant animal health component be developed within the framework of *ALive*.
134. The World Bank expert pointed out that animal disease control should be a key factor in policies for reducing poverty, for food safety and quality and for access to regional and international markets.
135. The speaker concluded that the importance of animal disease control programmes justified large-scale national and international investment in view of the unfavourable health situation in the African region and the economic and social benefits it would bring.
136. Finally, the speaker recalled that the partnership for livestock development in Africa initiated by the World Bank (*ALive* programme) will, therefore, need to take up the challenge and include a major health component, the details of which will be discussed in particular with the OIE Regional Commission and Representation for Africa, as well as with the Central Bureau of the OIE.

Discussion

137. The Session Chairman thanked Dr Le Gall for his comprehensive presentation and invited comments and questions from the floor.
138. Dr El Abrak emphasised the importance of poverty in Africa and the role that the implementation of programmes could play in diminishing its impact. He invited the Member Countries that have not yet replied to the OIE questionnaire to complete it and submit it to the Conference secretariat.
139. The Representative of Senegal praised the speaker for the clarity of his presentation and enquired about the considerations concerning the hierarchic classification of animal species and their products, and their impact on the poverty indicators.
140. The Delegate of Benin queried the modalities used by the World Bank when intervening to assist poor countries.
141. The Representative of the African Development Bank requested information on the assistance to be given to livestock farmers to improve the sanitary state of their herds, which would allow them access to regional and international markets. He underlined that cultural practices of livestock farmers should be considered in formulating interventions in the livestock sector.
142. The Delegate of Mali intervened on two points:
 - How could the World Bank give support to the necessary restructuring of Veterinary Services and their hierarchical position, while also supporting the decentralisation process?
 - How do you define poverty in the African context?
143. The Delegate of Mozambique enquired about the control of diseases as public goods and its impact on the Veterinary Services. He requested clarity on the role of NGOs and felt that it was necessary to investigate in depth the concept of decentralisation.
144. Dr Bouna Diop of AU/IBAR indicated that the 80% figures of PRSPs including livestock conceal the fact that, in reality, this sector, when mentioned, is not well developed and that important efforts, notably from the Veterinary Services, have to be made to persuade the national authorities to support the necessary reforms.
145. The Director of CIRAD-EMVT specified the efforts that can be made by the northern countries to combat transboundary diseases where they occur, diseases that constitute a permanent threat for disease free countries. In this context, he would prefer efforts for the control of diseases to be focused on the urban and peri-urban environments, over and above the rural environment, to develop research in the development of new generation vaccines. He invited the Member Countries to act jointly to obtain the necessary funding in this respect.
146. The Director General of the OIE clarified two points:
 - The importance of the questionnaire being completed by a maximum number of countries to obtain more representative results that can be used to convince the donors,
 - The need for the Veterinary Services themselves to develop strong arguments to convince the political decision-makers of their countries on the importance of programmes to combat diseases.
147. Dr Le Gall thanked the participants for their interest and clarified the different questions posed.
148. In many cases, decentralisation at times improves access to basic services (livestock services, private animal health services). However, the decentralisation process should not exclude the principle of the

direct line of command required for efficient Veterinary Services. It is simply a matter of explaining that this is an exceptional measure, a quality indicator for the evaluation of Veterinary Services, and that the countries cannot elude this principle without exposing themselves to serious sanitary risks and/or be banned from export.

149. When decisions are made against Veterinary Services, it is in a large majority of cases because of ignorance or misunderstanding of the characteristics and obligations of Veterinary Services. In controversy, it is important to better define and distinguish public and private goods, responsibility and implementation, animal health services and official Veterinary Services.
150. The delivery of a public service does not exclude cost recovery (partial or full) from the beneficiary. Numerous cases exist in Africa that clearly illustrate this point and we must be pragmatic in this matter.
151. Economic indicators on incomes are not well adapted to the context of poverty in livestock. These indicators do not capture unmarketed or unpriced goods on which the poor depend to the largest extent. Social indicators, which are harder to measure, are better adapted (nutrition, health, sanitation, education). New approaches to measure vulnerability are increasingly used and are more useful to measure poverty in livestock. This approach is privileged in analysis and discussion. The poverty/livestock analysis that will be implemented within the framework of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers would greatly improve this aspect.
152. The Session Chairman concluded the discussion by thanking all the participants. He then requested a small group consisting of Drs Katinka de Balogh (FAO), Yvon Le Brun (PACE AU/IBAR), Bouna Alboury Diop (PACE/AU/IBAR), Moto Peter Mangani (Zambia), Clarisse Rahantamalala (Madagascar) and Susan Mbugua (Kenya) to draft a recommendation on this technical item with the support of Dr Le Gall.

Animal health in support of NEPAD objectives

153. Dr Emily Mogajane, Assistant Director General of National Regulatory Services in the South African Department of Agriculture, and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, gave a brief overview of NEPAD.
154. The New Partnership for African Development is a vehicle to achieve the overall mission of African economic development; *“a prosperous continent free of conflict in which all our people can fulfil their potential, that participates effectively in the global economy on equal footing”*. The main pillars of the NEPAD agriculture initiative are land and water management, rural infrastructure and trade related capacity for improved market access, increasing food supply and reducing hunger and agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption.
155. Dr Mogajane added that agriculture is one of the high priority sectors for investments in the light of its being the largest contributor to GDP and employment in most African countries. Although 874 million hectares of Africa’s land is considered as suitable for agricultural production, reliance on irregular and unreliable rainfall for agricultural production is a major constraint on crop production. Livestock are estimated to contribute to the livelihoods of 70% of the world’s poor. Livestock play many roles in the livelihoods of the peoples of Africa. Despite this importance and the contribution to the economy and livelihoods, the productivity of livestock is poor and one of the main constraints to more efficient use of livestock is animal diseases (Perry *et al*).
156. The World animal health organisation, the OIE (*Organisation Internationale des Epizooties*) will be faced with greater challenges to ensure that animal products from African countries enter international markets. Most of the List A diseases of the OIE occur in Africa. The standards passed at the OIE favour developed countries rather than developing countries. Greater consideration of the development of standards that provide acceptable disease security that are pro poor will have to be put in place.

157. In conclusion, Dr Mogajane noted that major challenges will be facing the OIE as a standard setting body for international trade and recommendations will be made to ensure that corrective measures are taken to improve livestock productivity through appropriate animal health practices.

Discussion

158. A short discussion followed the presentation. The participants underlined the importance of NEPAD as a sector of support for livestock development. In particular, several Delegates emphasised the need for livestock and animal health policies to be given due recognition in the global socio-economic context of the African continent.
159. A small group was convened to prepare a recommendation on this topic under the guidance of Dr Mogajane.

The role of private veterinarians and para-professionals in the provision of animal health services

160. The Director General of the OIE presented the conclusions of the meeting held on this subject.
161. “ The OIE *ad hoc* Group on the role of private veterinarians and para-professionals in the provision of animal health services held its first meeting at the OIE Headquarters from 10-11 February 2003. Members of the *ad hoc* Group were from the public and private sectors, from Africa, the EU, South America and South-East Asia.

“ The Director General of the OIE, Dr B Vallat, indicated to the members that requests and recommendations had been received from various OIE Regional Commissions asking the OIE to address the issue of the utilisation of private veterinarians and various categories of para-professionals by veterinary services, particularly in Member Countries where veterinary services may be under organisational or financial pressure. Dr Vallat recalled the commitment made by the OIE and the other international organisations at Doha regarding capacity building in developing countries. He emphasised that the inclusion of private veterinarians and para-professionals needed to be carefully done to ensure that standards were maintained and confidence in countries ability to trade in safe commodities was not lost and that standards developed would need to be applicable to all Member Countries.

“ The *ad hoc* Group’s objective was to examine the aspects of animal health service delivery within its terms of reference and advise the OIE on how these may be used to improve the quality of veterinary services in OIE Member Countries. The terms of reference of the *ad hoc* Group were to:

- define the functions and responsibilities of private veterinarians, para-professionals, including community-based animal health workers (CAHWs), in the provision of animal health services;
- provide guidelines on the roles, inter-relationships and regulations required to link them with official veterinary services.

“ The *ad hoc* Group proposed revised definitions for *official veterinarian* and *veterinary services* to incorporate private veterinarians and para-professionals including CAHWs, and new definitions for *veterinarian*, *veterinary statutory body* and *para-professional*. It defined a para-professional as a person who, for the purposes of the OIE *Code*, is authorised to carry out certain veterinary tasks (dependant upon the category of para-professional) in a country through a license from the veterinary statutory body, and delegated to them under the responsibility and direction of a registered or licensed veterinarian. The veterinary tasks authorized for each category of para-professional should be defined by the statutory body depending on qualifications and training, and according to need. Categories of para-professionals include veterinary nurses, veterinary technicians,

community-based animal health workers, food inspectors, livestock inspectors and others depending on national terminologies.

“ To ensure adherence to ethical codes and standards by veterinarians and para-professionals, the *ad hoc* Group recommended that a veterinary statutory body be established in each OIE Member Country and that the body be made responsible for the licensing/registration of veterinarians and para-professionals, the setting and monitoring of professional standards, and for discipline. Such a body would play a vital role in the organisation and delivery of quality veterinary services, and the maintenance of public confidence in such services.

“ The *ad hoc* Group proposed that recognition of veterinary degrees on a regional basis could be a valuable tool in strengthening service delivery in the fields of animal health and veterinary public health, and recommended that OIE Regional Commissions encourage the harmonisation of registration/licensing of veterinarians and eventually that of para-professionals on a regional rather than country basis. It also recommended that *Veterinary Administrations* establish linkages to recognise and regulate trans-boundary veterinary activities, including the movement of veterinarians and para-professionals across national borders in certain areas of the world.

“ The *ad hoc* Group recommended that the supply of veterinary medicines and biologicals that might impact on international trade (through residues of anti-microbials, hormones or insecticides) be significantly tightened. It recommended that supply be based on prior diagnosis and specific treatment using licensed products, and only be made to clients whose livestock are under the care of the veterinarian or para-professional working under the responsibility of the veterinarian.

“ With regard to veterinary public health controls, the *ad hoc* Group noted the importance of livestock owners and their associations as the first line of defence in early warning, disease surveillance and food safety, and therefore an essential link in animal health service delivery.

“ The *ad hoc* Group recommended that, in order to strengthen animal health and veterinary public health services through improved involvement of private veterinarians and para-professionals, *Veterinary Administrations* build official linkages with service providers, particularly individual veterinarians and veterinary associations, but also with individual para-professionals, para-professional associations, non-governmental organisations and farmers' groups. The Group recommended that linkages between *Veterinary Administrations* and private veterinarians and para-professionals take the form of contracts for the provision of specific services such as disease monitoring and surveillance, animal vaccination, food inspection, and disease prevention and control.

“ The *ad hoc* Group also recommended that improvements be made at both undergraduate and postgraduate level to address current inadequacies in veterinary training.

“ The OIE believes that the recommendations arising from this meeting are very valuable and provide a sound basis for better including these professional groups in the activities of veterinary services of Member Countries and for making improvements to the OIE Animal Health Code.

“ The report of the *ad Hoc* Group's meeting will be submitted to the next meeting of the OIE Code Commission. “

162. The Conference participants applauded the information given in the report. An evident implication of this report is the need for each Member Country to have its own national Order of Veterinarians. This would lead to the necessity for those countries that do not dispose of a national Order to pass the necessary legislation in this context. There should be an official link, on a national level, between the para-professionals and the veterinary practitioners, the latter being responsible for the activities of the former. This official link should also be established between veterinary administration, veterinary practitioners and para-professionals.

Presentations by international and bilateral organisations or institutions

163. Dr Hamadou Saïdou, Vice-Chairman of this session, invited presentations from international and bilateral organisations or institutions.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

164. Dr Katinka de Balogh, Animal and Veterinary Public Health Officer (Pro-Poor Livestock Policy Facility) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), gave a brief description of the PPLPF.
165. The Pro-Poor Livestock facility (PPLPF) became operational at the FAO in 2002. The DFID supported facility is based at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy, and is imbedded within the Animal Production and Health Division. The facility envisages contributing to poverty reduction through the formulation and promotion of international and national livestock policies that ensure equitable, safe and clean livestock farming. For this, the facility collects, analyses and disseminates information/data and sets out studies to fill existing information gaps; this in view of assisting and orienting national and international livestock policy makers in the decision-making process. In addition, the existing policy process is analysed and stakeholder consultation and advocacy for the poor is promoted.
166. Due to the presence of regional/local differences, a number of regional 'hubs' are envisaged. In the first instance they will be catering for: South-East Asia, Southern Asia, the Andean Region, East Africa and West Africa and will address specific issues of importance for poor livestock farmers in the respective regions. Furthermore, a number of actions address issues across geographical zones; these correspond among others to the delivery of veterinary services, public health and food safety issues, dairy production as well as access to (international) markets. The facility liaises with a wide spectrum of local, national and international players.

European Commission (EC)

167. Dr Bernard Rey, Administrator of the European Office for Cooperation (AIDCO), reported that the European Development Fund supports various programmes for the development of livestock farming in Sub-Saharan Africa where an animal health component is in place. A transversal analysis of these projects show that there are four main lines of action for requesting support for Veterinary Services: epidemiology, information management, re-organisation of Veterinary Services and the participation of actors in civilian society. These lines of action are put into perspective with the cooperation of the European Union.

Centre for International Cooperation in Agronomic Research and Development - Department of Livestock and Veterinary Medicine (CIRAD-EMVT)

168. Dr Joseph Domenech, Director of the *Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement - Département de l'élevage et de médecine vétérinaire* (Centre for International Cooperation in Agronomic Research and Development - Department of Livestock and Veterinary Medicine (CIRAD-EMVT), explained the main objectives of the organisation relating to animal disease control in Africa and the activities of CIRAD-EMVT in the field of epidemiology.
169. The organisation has a wide range of activities in epidemiology covered by the three research programmes of the EMVT Department. These activities are principally based on the description, surveillance, analysis and modelling of major infectious and parasitic tropical diseases, several of which are currently spreading or emerging. The most important of these are contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), rinderpest and peste des petits ruminants (PPR), African swine fever (ASF), trypanosomoses, diseases transmitted by ticks, Rift Valley fever and bluetongue. The aims are to determine the risk factors for these diseases and to evaluate their financial cost, in order to define optimal prevention and control strategies, notably in Southern hemisphere countries. Dr

Domenech added that in the field of epidemiology, CIRAD-EMVT has developed a number of collaborative arrangements with institutions in both the southern hemisphere and the northern hemisphere. Extensive training activities are also carried out on behalf of its various partners. The strengthening of this discipline and its development to include new activities (e.g. risk analysis) is a priority for CIRAD-EMVT at the service of partner African countries.

Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)

170. Dr Bonaventure Mtei, Senior Livestock Expert of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), extended his thanks to the Director General of the OIE for inviting SADC to the Conference. He said that this is the first official contact between SADC and the OIE following the visit of Dr Jean Boyazoglu and Dr Amadou Samba Sidibe to the SADC region. The organisation is very anxious to establish a working relationship between SADC and the OIE and looks forward to the Director General's visit to Botswana following the invitation of the Botswana Government. During this visit, the OIE and SADC should be able to formalise the collaboration procedures with a possibility of establishing a Sub-Regional OIE office.
171. Dr Mtei informed participants that SADC is in the process of restructuring its institutions to articulate a more explicit strategic plan, which takes into account the principles of development, subsidiarity, market orientation, facilitation and promotion of trade and investments and variable geometry. The above principles include the promotion of sustainable and equitable economic growth and social development that will ensure poverty alleviation with the ultimate objective of its elimination. In order to provide strategic direction, SADC intends to render a Regional Indicative Strategic Plan for Development (RISDP) operational. The RISDP takes into account the sectoral regional policies, strategies and programmes within the framework of AU/IBAR and NEPAD initiatives. Coordination of sectoral activity and programmes is now centralised through which the 21 sectors (including livestock) have been phased into the SADC Secretariat grouped into four clusters, namely, Food Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR), Trade Industry, Finance and Investment (TIFI), Human Resources Development and Special Programmes (HRD & SP) and Infrastructure and Services (IS).
172. Dr Mtei noted that the immediate issues requiring the attention of the livestock sector are the current food crises in the region that is close to the FMD situation, thus its management, complicated by the political-economic events in Zimbabwe. Another important issue in line with the objectives of this meeting is the formation of the SADC focal point for the OIE and the other two sister organisations, the IPPC and CAC, to enable SADC Member States to comply with the WTO/SPS Agreement.

COMESA

173. Mr Rabson Matipa informed participants that the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) is a regional grouping of 20 member States for promoting economic integration in line with the Lagos Plan of Action of creating an African Economic Community. COMESA has developed and implemented a number of programmes in the various areas of trade, industry, agriculture, transport, monetary and finance and others. Notable among these programmes, and in particular in the area of trade liberalisation, is the tariff reduction programme that culminated into a Free Trade Area (FTA) on 31 October 2000. Another important aspect of the programme will be the establishment of the Common External Tariff (CET) that is scheduled to be in place by the year 2004. Common External Tariffs will be charged by all member States of the region for all imports originating from third countries.
174. In agriculture, COMESA aims at attaining food security. The twin challenge of the COMESA region is the achievement of food security at a regional level through increased production and reduction of post harvest losses, and increased trade in agricultural products while ensuring safe agricultural trade within the region. In this regard, COMESA has developed a project on Facilitating Safe Agricultural Trade within and outside the region. The project will build capacity of member States and provide support to relevant institutions for implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures as well as provide information and training on SPS International Standards. The project will deal with

national quarantine institutions and also provide training to customs officials dealing with quarantine procedures. In the past, COMESA has been supported by USAID in its training activities involving staff of the COMESA Secretariat and member States.

175. The situation in COMESA is similar to that on global trade under the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements. Under the WTO, “countries often require imported products to conform to mandatory standards they have adopted for protection of the health and safety of their people or for preservation of their environment”. Thus, implementation of SPS measures would contribute in preparing member states for international markets. Their application of SPS measures in COMESA will, therefore, serve as a launch pad for such products. In this regard, COMESA wishes to collaborate with the OIE, and to be invited to all regional conferences of the OIE as a partner in agricultural development.

African Development Bank (ADB)

176. Dr Umar Lawal, Senior Livestock Specialist at the African Development Bank, informed participants that the Bank is the premier financial development institution of Africa, dedicated to combating poverty and improving the lives of the people of the continent, and engaged in the task of mobilising resources towards the economic and social progress of its regional member countries. He recalled that the underlying cause of poverty is the lack of access, by the poor, to productive assets, technology and information. For the Bank Group, poverty alleviation is not just a noble goal and a worthy cause, but is central to the achievement of long-term sustainable development of the continent.
177. In addressing the foregoing challenges, the Bank would adopt a development assistance strategy, which effectively promotes accelerated, sustainable economic growth with equity and poverty reduction as its central goal. The Bank has assisted several regional Member Countries in livestock production and will continue to do so in line with its vision focusing on combating poverty and empowering the poor. Dr Lawal emphasised that the Bank is open to all regional member countries to approach it for financial assistance in order to achieve these noble objectives.

OIE Regional Representation for Africa

178. Dr Amadou Samba Sidibe, Coordinator of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa, briefly reviewed the activities of the Regional Representation for 2002, as well as its programme for 2003-2004.
179. The Coordinator noted that the work programme of the Regional Representation for Africa aimed to consolidate, in the short and medium term, the Work Plan adopted at the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in Arusha (Tanzania) in January 2001. In this respect, he recalled the activities of the Regional Representation: improvement of veterinary health information in Africa for a better control of diseases and quality control of animals and animal products; training of veterinary officials in the administration and management of Veterinary Services in Africa to improve technical capabilities for intervention on a national and regional scale; and information and training in the registration and control of veterinary medicinal products.

180. In this context, three major tasks have been assigned to the Regional Representation:
- support access to regional and international markets for animals and animal products,
 - support a food safety policy,
 - support Member Countries to reinforce their capabilities for compliance with OIE standards and for meeting the requirements of the WTO SPS agreement.
181. Dr Sidibe then briefly described the conclusions and recommendations of the seminars and workshop that were organised or co-organised by the Regional Representation in 2002:
- Seminar on food safety and emerging diseases, held in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) from 28 to 30 January, the first seminar organised by the Regional Representation in conjunction with the OIE Central Bureau;
 - Workshop aimed to assist Member Countries in the procedure for declaring their country free from rinderpest, co-organised by PACE and the Regional Representation, in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) from 11 to 15 February 2002;
 - OIE/FAO/World Bank Seminar on the Organisation of Veterinary Services and Food Safety, held in Tunis on 27 and 28 September 2002 for OIE Member Countries from Africa and the Middle East, organised within the framework of the World Veterinary Congress.
182. Dr Sidibe outlined the programme for 2003-2004, emphasising: the provision of methodological support to Member Countries finding it difficult to meet international requirements, with regard, amongst others, to the quality of animal health information, quality assurance and legislation on the organisation of Veterinary Services; support for the participation of the veterinary scientific community in the region in the activities of the OIE and WTO; support to the activities undertaken by the OIE Central Bureau. He mentioned the Web site for the Regional Representation for Africa.

Discussion

183. The Delegate of Benin launched an appeal to Member Countries to pay their membership fees to the OIE on a regular basis and expressed the wish for a strengthening of the capacities of the Regional Representation at this stage, rather than the creation of satellites at the sub-regional level.
184. The Delegate of Chad, on the other hand, invited the Regional Representation to extend its activities in the central sub-regional African space (SEMAG), in the same manner as apparently planned for the SADC and ECOWAS sub-regions.
185. The Director General requested all countries to pay their outstanding membership fees and underlined the fact that they are the only direct resource of the organisation. He also launched an appeal to all potential donors to bring their financial support to the Regional Representation.

Adoption of Recommendations of the Addis Ababa and Tunis seminars

186. The Session Chairman proposed the endorsement of the recommendations adopted at the Seminar on Health Surveillance and Emerging Diseases, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (28-30 January 2002) and the Seminar on the Organisation of Veterinary Services and Food Safety, held in Tunis (27-28 September 2002) within the framework of the World Veterinary Congress. The Recommendations were unanimously endorsed by the Conference.

Presentation of draft Recommendations Nos 1, 2, 3 and 4

187. Draft Recommendations Nos 1, 2 and 3 were presented to the participants and put forward for discussion and adoption. All three Recommendations were adopted with minor changes.
188. It was agreed to discuss Recommendation No. 4 regarding the paper on NEPAD presented by the President of the Regional Commission, on Friday morning.

Thursday 20 February 2003

Field trip

189. Participants found the field trip organised by the host country to a poultry farm and a livestock breeding centre to be of great interest. They extended their sincere thanks to the organisers for their kind hospitality.

Friday 21 February 2003

Dates and venue of the 16th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

190. The President of the Conference asked Delegates present if one of their countries wished to host the 16th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa. On behalf of the Government of his country, the Delegate of Sudan invited the Regional Commission to hold its 16th Conference in his country in February 2005. The participants applauded this proposal. The Delegate of Eritrea invited the Regional Commission to hold the 17th Regional Conference in his country, a proposal welcomed and unanimously accepted by the participants.

Adoption of the draft Final Report and Recommendations

191. The Conference adopted the draft Final Report and Recommendations Nos 1, 2, 3 and 4 pending certain amendments.

Closing Ceremony

192. The President of the Regional Commission read out a motion of thanks to the Government Authorities of Mozambique.
193. Dr Vallat expressed his recognition of the quality of the technical facilities made available during the meeting and thanked the host country for having thus contributed to the success of the Conference. He recalled the evolution of the Veterinary Services in Africa, the interest of stakeholders in fighting against poverty, the access of African countries to international markets and the mandate of the OIE regarding the importance of livestock in policy-making. The Director General congratulated the speakers for their presentations and all those who had contributed to, and enriched, the discussions. He expressed his gratitude to the Conference Secretariat and the interpreters for the quality of their work. A final expression of thanks went to the Delegate of Sudan for offering to host the next Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa.

194. Dr Mogajane noted the important role of the OIE in the exchange of information and its particular actions in the context of the African region. She recalled the wide reach of AU/IBAR programmes, however emphasising that other programmes, such as NEPAD, should also be taken into consideration for the region. In the name of all the Delegations, Dr Mogajane thanked the organisers for the exemplary way in which the conference was accomplished.
195. Dr Songane thanked the Director General of the OIE and all the countries and international organisations that participated in the Conference. He commented on the topics discussed and on livestock as the main support of development in Africa. He also stressed the importance of other alternatives to gear development, such as the creation of NEPAD. Dr Songane expressed his satisfaction given the success of the Conference. He thanked the Secretariat, the speakers, chairpersons, interpreters and all those who contributed to the positive outcome of the meeting and declared the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa officially closed at 12.00 p.m.

MOTION OF THANKS

The President and the Members of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, the Director General of the OIE, the members of Delegations of Member Countries, the representatives of international organisations and the observers present wish to express their gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Mozambique, the Host Country of the 15th Conference of the Regional Commission, for the excellent welcome accorded to them and for all facilities made available to them during their stay in Maputo from 18 to 21 February 2003.

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