



Organisation  
Mondiale  
de la Santé  
Animale

World  
Organisation  
for Animal  
Health

Organización  
Mundial  
de Sanidad  
Animal

16th Conference of the  
OIE Regional Commission for Africa  
Khartoum (Sudan), 7-10 February 2005

**FINAL REPORT**



Office international des epizooties

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## List of abbreviations

ALive	:	African Livestock Platform
AMU	:	Arab Maghreb Union
AU-IBAR	:	African Union - Interafrican Bureau of Animal Resources
CAEMC	:	Central African Economic and Monetary Community
CEBEVIRHA	:	<i>Communauté économique du bétail, de la viande et des ressources halieutiques</i> / Economic Community of Cattle, Meat and Fish Resources
CET	:	Common External Tariff
CGIAR	:	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
COMESA	:	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
DAMS	:	Departmental Administration Management Services (USA)
ECOWAS	:	Economic Community of West African States
ECTAD	:	Emergency Centre for the Control of TADs (Transboundary Animal Diseases)
EISMV	:	<i>Ecole Inter-Etats de science et médecine vétérinaires de Dakar</i> / Inter-State School of Veterinary Science and Medicine
ELISA	:	Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
EMPRES	:	Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases
EU	:	European Union
FAO	:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FTA	:	Free Trade Area
GF-TADs	:	Global Framework for Transboundary Animal Diseases
GMOs	:	Genetically modified organisms
IGAD	:	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ILRI	:	International Livestock Research Institute
MDF	:	Multi-Donor Trust Fund
NEPAD	:	New Partnership for African Development
OIE	:	Office International des Epizooties (World Organisation for Animal Health)
PACE	:	Pan-African Programme for the Control of Epizootics
PARC	:	Pan African Rinderpest Campaign
PCR	:	Polymerase chain reaction

PRINT	:	Promotion of Regional Integration in the SADC Livestock Sector
PRSP	:	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
SADC	:	Southern Africa Development Community
SPS	:	WTO's Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
STDF	:	Standards and Trade Development Facility
USAID	:	United States Agency for International Development
USDA-APHIS	:	United States Department of Agriculture – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
WB	:	World Bank
WHO	:	World Health Organization
WTO	:	World Trade Organization

## Introduction

1. On the invitation of the Government of Sudan, the 16th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa was held in Khartoum from 7 to 10 February 2005.
2. One hundred and ten participants attended the Conference from twenty-five OIE Member Countries and six international or regional organisations. The speakers of Items I and II also participated in the proceedings of the Conference. These were Prof. François-Adébayo Abiola, Director General of the 'Ecole Inter-Etats de Science et médecine vétérinaires' (EISMV) in Dakar, Senegal, and Dr Julian B. Jaftha, Genetic Resources Manager of the South African Department of Agriculture, Pretoria, South Africa ([Appendix 1](#)).

**Monday, 7 February 2005**

## Opening Session

3. Dr Ahmed Mustafa Hassan, Undersecretary of the Federal Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries, Delegate of Sudan to the OIE, extended a warm welcome to the honourable guests and participants at the 16th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa. He appreciated the role of the OIE in the control of rinderpest, the role of the OIE in coordinating the control of major infectious and epizootic diseases and the effort to protect international trade in animals and their products.
4. The Undersecretary also acknowledged the role played by the local committees in the preparation of this conference. He then briefly outlined the main topics to be discussed during the conference.
5. In conclusion, Dr Hassan acknowledged the support of colleagues from the OIE Central Bureau and their considerable efforts in the preparation of this valuable conference. He highlighted the financial support of the Sudan Government and the considerable assistance received from Ministries, particularly from the Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Resources and Irrigation, Khartoum State, Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Aviation. The Undersecretary also appreciated the participation and support of the private sectors and companies at this conference.
6. Dr Hamadou Saïdou, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, on behalf of all the Delegates, thanked His Excellency the President of the Republic of Sudan and his government for the kind invitation to hold this 16th Conference in Khartoum. He also thanked Dr Ahmed Hassan and the Conference Committee for their valuable efforts in organising the Conference. He welcomed all the participants and wished them a successful conference.
7. On behalf of the OIE International Committee, Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE, extended his sincere thanks to the Authorities of Sudan for their warm welcome and expressed his gratitude in particular to Dr Ahmed Mustafa Hassan and his team.
8. Dr Vallat recalled that the livestock production and products sector on the African continent is vitally important, in spite of major climatic hazards and transboundary disease risks, which places an enormous responsibility on the shoulders of the region's Veterinary Services in preventing and controlling diseases, as well as assuring transparency in animal and public health operations, and to assist the African continent to be considered by other regions as a key partner in the field of Veterinary animal and public health and in inter-regional and international trade in animals and their products.
9. 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. The first item deals with transhumance, an ancestral, but still very current, livestock production system. The second item is on the implications of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) for the livestock sector. The main problem is finding the appropriate application of this technology without risks within the African agricultural system. Discussions would in particular focus on the Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2005-2010, the joint OIE/FAO GF-TADs world-wide programme and the ALive programme, a World Bank initiative, which is of particular importance to livestock development in Africa; the OIE is an important partner and link of

this initiative. He also mentioned the active collaboration between the OIE and AU/IBAR/PACE, and with this opportunity, welcomed the new Director General of the AU-IBAR, Dr Modibo Tiemoko Traoré, wishing him every success with his task and assuring him of the OIE's support and collaboration. He also 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. The animal health situation in the OIE Member Countries in Africa, as well as information on the aquatic animal health policies of the OIE, will be discussed.

10. In conclusion, Dr Vallat informed participants that the OIE, FAO, World Bank, WHO and WTO have embarked on the development of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) initiative by which the international organisations are committed to work together to assist developing countries in enhancing their expertise and capacity to contribute to the development and implementation of international sanitary and phytosanitary standards, and thus improving their ability to gain and maintain market access, as well as their human, animal and plant health situation. He added that the STDF has agreed to fund three projects presented by the OIE: training of new OIE Delegates worldwide, an evaluation tool of the quality of Veterinary Services, and strengthening Veterinary Services with special reference to Africa.
11. His Excellency, Brigadier Gutluak Deng Garang, Federal Minister of Animal Resources and Fisheries of Sudan, welcomed the participants to the 16th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa and noted the spirit of collaboration and exchange of information and experience among African countries and the world through an international organisation, the OIE, known for its competence, democracy and justice to all countries without discrimination save for their animal health status.
12. The Minister added that Sudan joined the OIE about half a century ago, namely, since independence in 1956, when it adhered to the organisation's regulations and guidance, which are based on science and bear no other connotations. Through these regulations and guidance, Sudan has gained considerably, which is reflected in the increase in its livestock exports to sister countries.
13. The Minister explained that the Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries bases its plans on scientific grounds profiting from the experiences of other countries and benefiting from the scientific experiences of international and regional organisations, and that topics for the development of livestock in Sudan must conform to the guidelines of the international, regional and local organisations, the most important of which is the OIE. He added that the OIE is the main source of scientific knowledge for the control of animal diseases, the main backbone of production. The OIE is the bridge that connects countries and organisations for the exchange of experiences. The OIE is the main reference for the World Trade Organization (WTO). The WTO benefits from the OIE in establishing specifications for trade in plants and animals and their products. The OIE illuminates everyone in ways and means of creating legislations for the control of animal diseases and is, therefore, important in the implementation of our strategies.
14. In conclusion, the Minister noted that relations with the OIE are in continuous development since Sudan's membership in 1956. These developments resulted from the organisation's support to developing countries in decision-making at the organisation level in tandem with the developed countries. For this reason, the decisions taken by the organisation are acceptable to all due to the democracy practised.
15. His Excellency Field Marshal Omer Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir, President of the Republic of Sudan, welcomed the largest scientific African gathering in Sudan that coincides with the country's peace signing celebrations and witnesses progress being achieved in the executive and legislative fields in which livestock has the higher share and presents the spear head and solid base together with the agricultural, industrial, cultural and public service sectors.
16. His Excellency the President commented that the livestock sector is an important contributor to the overall economy of the Sudan, where more than 40% of the population depend socially and economically on livestock. For this reason, the government is doing its best for the protection and improvement of these resources. The sector contributes approximately 23% to GDP, 40% to total agricultural exports and provides over 20% of the country's foreign exchange earnings, in addition to securing meat and milk for local consumption and providing reasonable income for their keepers.

It can be noted that farmers keeping livestock and growing crops have never suffered in finding resources for financing their farming operations; this can be seen in the western part of the country where there are no incidences of crop financing failures. This is also the case with the farmers in the irrigated and mechanised farming schemes.

17. The ecological diversity and cultural background governs the distribution of livestock in the country. Livestock is deeply rooted into society cultures and traditions. This diversity gives increased chances for the selection and investment in animal resources; in addition, Sudan's livestock depends mainly on natural pastures free from feed additives and promoters. For this reason, the country's livestock has a good reputation and has a growing demand on the international livestock market.
18. His Excellency the President explained that the livestock sector in Sudan contributes positively to providing better chances for accelerating the peace process and this could be achieved by the provision of effective Veterinary Services and settlement of the displaced, as well as by encouraging fishing and control of pests, and securing more areas for cultivation in southern Sudan.
19. Veterinary Services in Sudan started at the beginning of the 19th century and it was mainly directed towards clinical and preventive services. The animal production services are gradually coming up. These services received considerable support, which participants will witness during their stay in Sudan. Veterinary Services has a very strong base in Sudan where integrated veterinary services are provided throughout the country, with concentration at the rural highly livestock populated areas.
20. His Excellency the president indicated that the Government of Sudan is supporting livestock exports by establishing adequate export infrastructure at the production areas, hence securing safe livestock export, free from diseases and in compliance with international standards. The Government of Sudan (GOS) is offering the livestock sector all the possible political, financial and moral support. This is due to its socio-economic contribution in the country. Seventy veterinary mobile units were provided to give effective and integrated veterinary services and involved in disease surveillance and livestock movement monitoring. The Government is also implementing effective disease control programmes based on the standards and directives provided by the OIE. In this respect, the President acknowledged and appreciated the support received from the international organisations. The Government is currently financing the free vaccination programme, which will continue for three years for vaccination of livestock against the major livestock diseases.
21. His Excellency the President acknowledged and appreciated the role played by the international organisations and in particular the support received and still being received to implement the Pan African disease control projects. In this respect, the President thanked the European Union and the Interafrican Bureau of Animal Resources of the African Union, and the United Nation agencies, in particular the FAO. The efforts exerted by the Government of Sudan to control and eradicate disease will not achieve its goals without the support of the international society and civil organisations, which meet this week in Sudan in this remarkable and distinguished gathering.
22. His Excellency the President ended by wishing participants every success for the conference and he hoped to welcome them again to Sudan. He assured participants that the outcome of this conference will be seriously adopted and implemented. The President then declared the Conference officially open.
23. The texts of the above speeches were distributed to all participants.

#### **Election of the Conference Committee**

24. The participants elected the following Conference Committee:

Chairperson:	Dr Ahmed Mustafa Hassan (Sudan)
Vice-Chairperson:	Dr Uqubeab Ghebremicael Kahase (Eritrea)
Rapporteur General:	Dr Mahamat Ahmat Abderamane (Chad) Assisted by Dr Mohammed Razig Aziz (Sudan)



### Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Timetable

25. The Provisional Agenda and Timetable were adopted (Appendices II and III).

### Designation of Session Chairpersons and Rapporteurs

26. Chairpersons and Rapporteurs were designated for the Technical Items and animal health situation as follows:

Item I:	Dr Soumana Diallo (Mali), Chairperson Dr Ahmed Tawfik (Egypt), Rapporteur
Item II:	Dr Robert Thwala (Swaziland), Chairperson Dr William Olaho-Mukani (Uganda), Rapporteur
Animal health situation:	Dr Emily Mmamakgaba Mogajane (South Africa), Chairperson Dr Peter Zephania Njau (Tanzania), Rapporteur

### Animal Health Situation of Member Countries in 2004

27. Dr Emily Mmamakgaba Mogajane, Chairperson of the Session, invited Delegates of Member Countries to report on any changes that had taken place regarding the animal health situation of their country since 1 January 2004 and especially since the 72nd General Session of the OIE International Committee.
28. The Director General gave a brief summary of the animal health situation in Africa in 2004, prepared using information contained in national reports provided by OIE Member Countries of the Region, following the guidelines for the preparation of the national animal health status report for 2004. The report has been complemented with information extracted from the emergency and follow-up reports and from the monthly reports submitted by Member Countries of the region during 2004.
29. Of the 50 OIE Member Countries of the Regional Commission for Africa, 18 submitted their reports for the 16th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (see complete list at end of report).

### I. ANIMAL DISEASE SITUATION IN 2004 IN AFRICA

#### Rinderpest

30. In 2004, additional countries from Africa have followed the OIE pathway toward the official recognition of rinderpest disease free status.
31. The Delegate of **Central African Republic** declared his country “provisionally free from rinderpest” in February 2004.
32. An extension of the zone of the country provisionally free from rinderpest was declared by the Delegate of **Ethiopia** in June 2004.
33. In September 2004, **Kenya** declared a zone of the country provisionally free from rinderpest.
34. During December 2004, **Sudan** made a self declaration of freedom from rinderpest following the OIE rinderpest pathway.
35. Under the surveillance programme, 4,308 serum samples and 6 samples obtained from wildlife were analysed using ELISA in **Guinea**. All results were confirmed negative.
36. Epidemiological surveillance of rinderpest in **Senegal** involved the analysis of 3,854 samples all of which tested negative.

## Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP)

37. The increase of CBPP surveillance and monitoring in most of sub-Saharan African countries has led to the improvement of the understanding of the disease situation in many countries.
38. Twenty four outbreaks of CBPP were reported in **Uganda** in 2004. The districts affected were: Bundibugyo, Kotido, Kimu, Luwero, Masindi, Nebbi, Soroti, Kayunga, Mukono, Lira, Kasese, Moyo and Nakasongola. The disease still remains enzootic in the pastoral and communal grazing livestock production systems.
39. Three outbreaks of CBPP were declared in three departments in **Benin** during 2004.
40. Five outbreaks of CBPP occurred in 2004 in **Sudan** with 542 clinical individual cases observed, no laboratory confirmation has been provided. Almost 510,368 head of cattle were vaccinated in 2004. CBPP is considered as a serious enzootic disease of cattle in Sudan. CBPP causes economic losses among cattle in the form of debilitation and death for infected animals. The control of the disease mainly includes restriction of movement, segregation, quarantine of infected herds and annual vaccination.
41. **Guinea** reported two outbreaks of CBPP during 2004. The country has been divided according to the epidemiology of the disease into three areas: endemic zone, buffer zone and free zone.
42. A total of nine outbreaks were reported during 2004 in **Mali**. The regions affected were Kayes, Koulikoro, Sikasso, Segou and Gao.
43. **Côte d'Ivoire** confirmed seven outbreaks of CBPP in 2004 with 462 cases and 27 deaths.
44. **Togo** declared 15 outbreaks of CBPP in 2004.
45. In 2004, 1,605 bovine serum samples were tested for CBPP antibodies in **Botswana** using the Complement Fixation Test (CFT) and 517 bovine lung samples were tested for isolation of *Mycoplasma mycoides* subsp *mycoides* small colony variant (MmmSC). All the sera and the lung samples tested negative for CBPP.
46. In June 2004, six outbreaks of CBPP were reported by the **Democratic Republic of Congo** in Ankole longhorn cattle (Bahema type) in the north eastern part of the country.
47. During July and August 2004, outbreaks of CBPP were confirmed in **Nigeria** in the state of Kano located in the northern part of the country. The last outbreak reported had been in March 2003.
48. Passive surveillance and active surveillance carried out in 30 abattoirs in **Senegal** in 2004 indicated negative results.
49. Several outbreaks of CBPP were confirmed in 2004 in **Zambia** in the Northern, Western and Southern provinces.
50. In 2004, the following African Countries reported outbreaks of CBPP: **Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria** and **Tanzania**.

## Foot and mouth disease

51. As a result of routine surveillance in the FMD Controlled Area in **South Africa**, FMD of type SAT 2 was detected initially on 26 June 2004 in two dipping tank areas to the west of Letaba Ranch and immediately to the south of the Letaba River in the FMD Buffer Control Zone of the Limpopo Province. The FMD controlled area in South Africa is under constant surveillance with regular inspections of all cloven hoofed animals, twice yearly vaccination of all cattle in the Buffer and Surveillance Zones. Additional outbreaks were confirmed in July in dipping tanks in the surveillance zone to the north of Letaba River. The Buffer Zone and Surveillance Zone were delineated as a Quarantine Area in order to protect the free area adjacent to the Surveillance zone. The detection of these cases did not affect the status of **South Africa's** free zone without vaccination as recognised by the OIE.

52. **Benin** reported the occurrence of FMD during 2004 without precise information on the number of outbreaks, but eight departments were concerned.
53. **Côte d'Ivoire** reported outbreaks of FMD in 2004.
54. **Malawi** reported one outbreak of FMD in the north region in Chitipa district. The population affected was mainly smallholder beef cattle and the virus type SAT 2 was confirmed by the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute. The disease is believed to have spread from a neighbouring country.
55. **Mali** confirmed three outbreaks of FMD in its territory during 2004 in the regions of Kayes, Koulikoro and Bamako.
56. In **Mozambique** no new outbreaks of FMD have been recorded since the last outbreak in Gaza province in September 2003. Surveillance and vaccination continued normally targeting the areas at risk. These areas are in the provinces of Maputo and Gaza in the south and in the provinces of Sofala and Manica (Beira Corridor) in the centre of the country.
57. Clinical cases of FMD were identified during 2004 in **Sudan**. Samples were sent to the OIE Reference Laboratory for FMD, Pirbright, United Kingdom. In its annual report for 2004, the Pirbright Laboratory confirmed the presence of FMD type O in samples received from the Sudan.
58. **Nigeria** confirmed one outbreak of FMD in September 2004 in the Owerri district, State of Imo. The last outbreak was reported in February 2003.
59. **Senegal** reported five outbreaks of FMD in 2004 in the departments of Kaffrine, Matam and Tamba.
60. **Togo** reported more than 70 outbreaks of FMD during 2004. The disease is endemic in this country.
61. A total of 21 FMD outbreaks were reported during 2004 in **Uganda** in nine districts. The districts affected were: Luwero, Masindi, Mubende, Mukono, Rakai, Kayunga, Kiboga, Kibaale and Nakansogola. These outbreaks were associated with movement of livestock in search of water and pastures. The Government procured 245,000 doses of vaccine to control these outbreaks.
62. In February 2004, **Zambia** reported suspected cases of FMD in the Northern Province. The last outbreak was reported in October 2002. The 2004 outbreak was confirmed and FMD spread to initially free areas of the country, such as Mpulungu and Chinsali. The serotypes identified were SAT 2 and type O. In July 2004, another outbreak was detected in the Southern Province, which spread into the Central Province. The serotype identified was SAT 1. The Northern Province vaccinated using bivalent SAT 2 and O, while the Southern and Central Provinces use trivalent SAT 1, SAT 2 and SAT 3.
63. No outbreaks of FMD have been reported since 1999 in **Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia**. In **Libya**, no new cases of foot and mouth disease have been reported since the last outbreak of FMD type SAT 2 in July 2003.
64. FMD is restricted to the northern part of **Botswana** where the three serotypes SAT (1, 2 and 3) are maintained only within the African Buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) populations. The OIE recognises Botswana as having zonal freedom from FMD without vaccination.
65. In 2004, in addition to the above countries, **Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Niger, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zimbabwe** reported the occurrence of FMD outbreaks.

#### **Peste des petits ruminants (PPR)**

66. In the **Sudan**, PPR was suspected in camels. Agar gel immunodiffusion, ELISA and PCR tests confirmed the disease, but the virus could not be isolated from the specimens examined.
67. In 2004, 157 outbreaks of PPR were confirmed in Kassa Island in **Guinea**. There were 2,171 cases and 1,037 deaths.

68. **Benin** reported cases of PPR in its territory during 2004. Eleven departments were affected by these outbreaks.
69. Two outbreaks of PPR were declared in 2004 in **Côte d'Ivoire** affecting 195 goats and sheep with 37 deaths. The last reported outbreak of PPR was in October 2001
70. One outbreak was declared by **Mali** during 2004 in the Koulikoro region.
71. A total of 200 outbreaks of PPR were reported during 2004 in **Togo**. The disease is spreading rapidly with significant mortality in small ruminant flocks.
72. The PPR situation in **Senegal** has improved. Only 6 outbreaks were confirmed in 2004 (15 in 2003) and 1,440,492 small ruminants were vaccinated during the year. The departments affected were Guédiawaye, Matam, Niore, Bignona, Tamba and Gossas.
73. PPR occurs in **Guinea Bissau**; however, there is no information on the number of outbreaks and it is underreported.
74. In 2004, in addition to the above countries, the following countries from the region reported PPR outbreaks: **Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mauritania and Nigeria**.

#### **Lumpy skin disease (LSD)**

75. During 2004, three outbreaks of LSD were confirmed in **Botswana**.
76. Outbreaks of LSD were confirmed in 14 districts of **Uganda**. These were: Kalangala, Kimu, Luwero, Lira, Mbarara, Mpgi, Soroti, Tororo, Kapchorwa, Sironko, Apac, Kiboga, Jinja and Mukono. Lumpy skin disease has been on the increase since it was first reported in this country in the 1980s.
77. During February 2004, two outbreaks of LSD were confirmed in **Eritrea** in the Ugumu and Azien areas. The previous outbreak of LSD reported in this country was in October 2002.
78. Two outbreaks of LSD were reported in **Guinea** during 2004. There were 44 cases and one death.
79. In **Lesotho**, two outbreaks of LSD were reported in Maseru in January 2004. The last outbreak reported was in February 2003.
80. **Mali** reported two outbreaks of LSD during 2004 in the Segou and Tombouctou regions.
81. In 2004, two outbreaks of LSD were reported in **Mozambique** in the Inhambane and Sofala provinces with 22 cases and 4 deaths. Vaccination and movement control are the measures being implemented.
82. Fifteen (15) outbreaks of LSD were reported in **Togo** during 2004.
83. **Senegal** confirmed two outbreaks of LSD in the departments of Tamba and Velingara.
84. **South Africa** reported the occurrence of outbreaks of LSD in 2004.
85. **Swaziland** reported five outbreaks of LSD in the regions of Madlangempisi, Tumbela, Malunguza, Manzini and Fobobo. A total of 5,049 animals were vaccinated between January and December 2004.
86. In 2004, in addition to the above countries, **Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Niger, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zimbabwe** reported the occurrence of LSD outbreaks.

#### **Rift Valley fever (RVF)**

87. One outbreak of Rift Valley fever in reared sheep was confirmed in **Senegal** during 2004 in the Dagana Department. The last outbreak of RVF was in September 2003. Due to lack of vaccine, the only measure implemented was to raise farmers' awareness.

88. In complement to its clinical surveillance of RVF, **Djibouti** has set up active surveillance in different points of its territory mainly for transhumant domestic ruminants in 2002, 2003 and 2004. A total of 440 small ruminants and 295 bovines have been sampled. Assistance has been obtained to use the laboratory expertise of the IMTSSA (*Institut de médecine tropicale du service de santé des armées*), Marseille, France. Laboratory results indicated the presence of serological traces of IgG antibodies most probably related to an ancient RVF virus circulation.

#### **Bluetongue (BT)**

89. **Morocco** reported during 2004 more than one hundred outbreaks of BT caused by serotype 4. The outbreaks started in September 2004 in the Ifrane province and then spread to the rest of the country affecting only sheep. The applied outbreaks control measures were: quarantine, external antiparasitic treatment of the affected flocks, strengthening epidemiological surveillance of the disease at the national level, increasing the awareness of farmers and local authorities, and movement control inside the country. Following the occurrence of the disease in Morocco, **Algeria** has increased surveillance in the Western part of the country and no outbreaks have been reported.
90. Bluetongue occurs in **South Africa** throughout the country where the vector is active and the climate is favourable. Although outbreaks occur, underreporting still remains a problem.
91. One outbreak of bluetongue was reported in March 2004 in Leribe, **Lesotho**. The last outbreak reported from this country was in May 2003.
92. **Namibia** confirmed in June 2004 one outbreak of BT in sheep.

#### **Sheep pox and goat pox (SPGP)**

93. **Algeria** confirmed the occurrence of 23 outbreaks of sheep pox in 2004, a decreasing number if compared with the 87 reported outbreaks in 2003.
94. Nine clinical outbreaks of SPGP were confirmed in **Sudan** in 2004 without laboratory confirmation. 1,071,386 head of sheep were vaccinated.
95. **Senegal** confirmed the occurrence of 8 outbreaks of SPGP in 2004 in the Kaffrine, Bakel and Kanel Departments.
96. In 2004, the following African Countries reported outbreaks of SPGP: **Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Niger** and **Tunisia**.

#### **African horse sickness (AHS)**

97. In **Lesotho**, two outbreaks of AHS were confirmed in Maseru and Qacha's Nek. The last outbreak had been reported in March 1998.
98. **Swaziland** reported its first outbreak of AHS since 1993 in May 2004 in the Hhohho province. The equine affected was imported from South Africa for an equestrian event in April 2004.
99. One outbreak of AHS was confirmed in the Chisamba district, Central province of **Zambia** in May 2004. The previous outbreak had been reported in 1991.
100. Two outbreaks of AHS were reported in **Botswana** in 2004 with two clinical cases.
101. **South Africa** reported one outbreak of AHS in January 2004 in the surveillance zone of the AHS control area in the Western Cape Province. A total of 16 horses died and serotype 1 was isolated as the causal agent. The last recorded incidence of serotype 1 was in 2001-2002 in the Springbok Area (Northern Cape Province) in horses.
102. One outbreak of AHS was reported in Matabeleland South, **Zimbabwe**, in August 2004. The previous outbreak had been reported in May 2003.
103. In 2004, the following African Countries reported outbreaks of AHS: **Eritrea, Ethiopia** and **Zambia**.

104. A total of five outbreaks of AHS were confirmed in the department of Dagana in **Senegal** in 2004.

#### **African swine fever (ASF)**

105. One suspected outbreak of AFS was reported by **Eritrea** in November 2004.

106. **Benin** reported the occurrence of ASF in 2004 with five departments affected.

107. There has been an overall reduction in the number of outbreaks of ASF in **Uganda** during 2004.

108. This disease exists in **Guinea Bissau**; however, there is no information on the number of outbreaks.

109. ASF is endemic in **Mozambique** in the Central and Northern provinces. 14 outbreaks were reported in 2004 and 8,689 pigs died.

110. **Namibia** confirmed in December 2004 the occurrence of two outbreaks of ASF in farms located in the Okahanja district in a peri-urban commercial pig herd. The last outbreak reported was in November 2001. In both affected farms, the recommended standards to prevent contact with warthog were not respected, knowing that the disease is considered endemic in the warthog (*Phacochoerus aethiopicus*) population.

111. Several outbreaks were confirmed in **Togo** during 2004. The disease is endemic and an active surveillance is in place in order to know the animal disease situation in the country.

112. An outbreak of ASF was confirmed in the Kadiogo province, Ouagadougou district, **Burkina Faso**, in November 2004. The previous outbreak had been reported in August 2003. The source of the infection is believed to be contact with warthogs (*Phacochoerus aethiopicus*).

113. Three outbreaks of ASF were reported in the Thiès Department, **Senegal**, in 2004.

114. **Tanzania** confirmed three outbreaks of ASF in the Kasulu and Kigoma districts in April 2004.

115. In addition to the above countries, the **Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Malawi, Rwanda** and **Zambia** reported outbreaks in 2004.

#### **Classical swine fever (CSF)**

116. This disease has been confirmed in **Guinea** (Forestry); however, there is no available data on its incidence or prevalence. [Note by the OIE's Animal Health Information Department: this information needs to be confirmed. If the information is reliable, it means that CSF is reported for the first time to occur on Continental Africa (outside Mauritius and Madagascar)].

117. **Madagascar** continued reporting outbreaks of CSF in 2004.

#### **Newcastle disease (NCD)**

118. Newcastle disease is the major avian disease in many African Countries, causing high economic losses in villages and backyard type breeds.

119. A total of 37 outbreaks were reported in 23 districts in **Uganda**. These districts were: Kampala, Kitgum, Masindi, Mpigi, Mubende, Nebbi, Sembabule, Soroti, Tororo, Hoima, Kasese, Kyenjojo, Mukono, Rukungiri, Sironko, Yumbe, Kalangala, Kapchorwa, Lira, Kayunga, Moyo, Kamuli and Kibaale. Vaccination and proper husbandry practices were maintained as the main methods of controlling this disease.

120. Eight departments were affected by outbreaks of Newcastle disease in **Benin** during 2004.

121. **Guinea** confirmed 42 outbreaks of Newcastle disease during 2004.

122. This disease exists in **Guinea Bissau**, but there is no information on the number of outbreaks and it is under-reported.
123. Newcastle disease is widespread in **Mozambique** and is under-reported in rural areas. In 2004, there were 8 outbreaks of NCD in commercial and smallholder farming systems. In these outbreaks there were 3,074 cases and 2,984 deaths. To reduce the impact of NCD, thermostable vaccines are being used.
124. Two outbreaks of NCD were confirmed during 2004 in Diourbel, **Senegal**.
125. **Togo** confirmed 160 outbreaks of NCD in its territory during 2004.
126. One outbreak of NCD was confirmed in **Sudan** in 2004. A total of 3,000 cases and 2,700 deaths were recorded and the outbreak was clinically diagnosed and laboratory confirmed.
127. Outbreaks of Newcastle disease occur from time to time in **South Africa**. One single outbreak affecting three farms (broiler breeder, broiler and non commercial chickens) occurred in September 2004 in the Kwazulu-Natal province. The disease has not been reported officially since September 2003. Newcastle disease is a notifiable disease in **South Africa** and vaccination is compulsory for all chickens, ostriches and racing pigeons.
128. In 2004, in addition to the above countries, the following African Countries reported outbreaks of NCD: **Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe**.

#### **Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)**

129. An outbreak of HPAI was detected in ostriches in the Blue Crane Route Municipality area of the Eastern Cape Province, **South Africa**, at the beginning of August 2004. The disease was first found on two ostrich farms around the town of Somerset-East in the Eastern Cape Province. The virus was identified and confirmed as H5N2. Three additional ostrich farms tested positive in Grahamstown Municipality in the Eastern Cape Province. A total of 6,357 ostriches were culled in the Grahamstown Municipality area on the three positive farms and 1,584 ostrich eggs were destroyed. A game farm adjacent to the positive farms in Grahamstown Municipality was also found to be positive. All birds were slaughtered.
130. New cases were detected in an ostrich farm in Camdeboo Municipality, area situated 180 km to the north west of Blue Crane Municipality Area. Ostriches on two other ostrich farms were also culled in this area. One additional ostrich farm in Jansenville town in Ikwezi Municipality was found positive and the birds were culled. A stamping out policy was applied in the Eastern Cape Province and compensation has been paid to farmers whose animals were destroyed as a result of disease control methods. The Department of Agriculture has voluntarily stopped exports of potentially infectious and contagious poultry and poultry products from South Africa until the outbreak has been dealt with successfully.

#### **Rabies**

131. Rabies is still an important zoonotic disease in most African countries and human cases and deaths continue to occur.
132. During 2004, 823 cases were confirmed in **Algeria** in bovines and dogs.
133. In **Morocco**, it looks as if there is an increase in rabies incidence during the last years. The two cases of rabies reported in France in February and August 2004 were in dogs that stayed in or originated from Morocco. The first case occurred in a four-year-old dog not correctly vaccinated against rabies, brought back to France by its owners after staying in Morocco in late 2003, and the second case was a dog illegally imported into the European Union and that was found on the road in Agadir, Morocco, in July 2004. Another case was diagnosed in a dog in Switzerland in July 2003.

The latter was found two months before showing the clinical signs of the disease on a road in the Canton of Geneva and was later adopted by a family. The results of the Institut Pasteur, Paris, France showed, by doing a genome comparison, that the isolate analysed was phylogenetically very similar to North-African rabies viruses, especially those from Morocco.

134. Rabies is endemic in **Botswana**. In 2004, 18 cases of rabies were recorded: cattle (11), goats (3), dogs (2) and fauna (2).
135. Clinical cases of rabies were confirmed in 2004 in **Guinea** in cattle (52) and dogs (16).
136. In **Mozambique**, 15 outbreaks of rabies were confirmed in 2004. One of these outbreaks affected bovines, with three animal deaths.
137. Five outbreaks of rabies were reported in 2004 in the departments of Mbour, Linguere and Fatick in **Senegal**. There were 10 deaths.
138. Rabies is becoming more widespread in **South Africa** throughout all provinces, with KwaZulu-Natal still having the majority of outbreaks.
139. In **Sudan**, rabies continued to be a serious public health hazard in 2004. Two confirmed cases of rabies were reported, one in a cow and the other in a camel.
140. A total of 57 cases of rabies were confirmed in **Swaziland** in 2004. All the cases occurred and have been confirmed in dogs.
141. Thirty-three outbreaks of rabies were reported in **Uganda**. The disease is on the increase.

#### **Anthrax**

142. Outbreaks in hippos (*Hippopotamus amphibious*) in the Queen Elizabeth National Park in **Uganda** killed 210 hippos and 15 buffaloes (*Syncerus caffer*). This outbreak was associated with the abiotic nature of *Bacillus anthracis* and the prolonged drought that had occurred in the area.
143. Two outbreaks of anthrax were confirmed in **Mali** in Koulikoro and Segou in 2004.
144. **Sudan** confirmed two outbreaks of anthrax involving sheep and cattle in 2004.
145. In 2004, an outbreak of anthrax was detected in the Chobe National Park in **Botswana**. This outbreak affected mainly buffaloes (*Syncerus caffer*), but other species were also affected, such as elephants, kudu, impala and hippo. Domestic species were not affected by this outbreak.
146. Anthrax disease occurs in the Savanes and Kara regions in **Togo**.
147. During 2004, several outbreaks of anthrax occurred in **South Africa** in the communal areas of the North West Province involving domestic species such as cattle, sheep and goats.

#### **Tick-borne diseases (TBDs)**

148. Theileriosis continues to constitute a great hazard in livestock in **Sudan**; 14 outbreaks were confirmed during 2004, 10 of which were in bovines and 4 in ovines.
149. In **Mozambique** there were 26 outbreaks with 267 cases of tick-borne diseases in 2004: anaplasmosis (7 outbreaks), heartwater (10 outbreaks), babesiosis (6 outbreaks) and Theileriosis (3 outbreaks).
150. Five outbreaks of anaplasmosis were reported in 2004 in Louga, **Senegal**.
151. 42 cases of Theileriosis, 2 cases of heartwater and 23 cases of anaplasmosis were confirmed during 2004 in **Swaziland**.



### **Bovine brucellosis**

152. A total of four outbreaks were confirmed in **Côte d'Ivoire** in 2004. 37 cases were confirmed and there were 10 deaths.
153. One outbreak of brucellosis was reported in **Swaziland** in 2004. A passive surveillance system is in place especially in dipping tank systems.
154. Brucellosis is endemic in **Sudan** and during 2004, 11 outbreaks were confirmed in bovines involving 240 cases. Two outbreaks of brucellosis were also confirmed in sheep and two outbreaks in goats involving 14 and 23 cases respectively.

### **Bovine tuberculosis (TB)**

155. One outbreak of TB was declared in Yamoussoukro, **Côte d'Ivoire**, in 2004. Two clinical cases with one death were confirmed in this outbreak.
156. **South Africa** has an official eradication scheme for TB. African buffalo in the Kruger National Park, as well as some game reserves in KwaZulu-Natal, are infected with TB.

### **Caprine and ovine brucellosis (excluding *b.ovis*)**

157. The infection rate of brucellosis in **Algeria** was 4.79% in 2004. Serum from 43,174 caprine were analysed and 2,145 were positive.

### **Ovine epididymitis (*b.ovis*)**

158. One outbreak of ovine epididymitis was confirmed in **Côte d'Ivoire** in 2004. 17 cases were confirmed as positive.

### **Haemorrhagic septicaemia (HS)**

159. The number of outbreaks of HS confirmed in **Benin** in 2004 was 17.
160. A total of 36 outbreaks of HS were reported in **Guinea** in 2004 with 3,234 cases confirmed.

### **Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS)**

161. Serum samples from pigs in Kuilriver in the Western Cape Province, **South Africa**, tested positive in June 2004. A total of 2,407 pigs from 32 infected farms (31 small farmers and one commercial unit) were slaughtered. The results indicated that PRRS seemed to be limited to the Cape Flats Area and to farms in the Malmesbury Area of the Western Cape Province. The disease had never been previously diagnosed in South Africa.

## **II. CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR ANIMAL DISEASES**

162. A contingency plan for rinderpest is in place in **Senegal**, which includes stamping out, vaccination around potential outbreaks, surveillance, and compensation to affected farmers.
163. **Botswana** has put in place contingency plans for FMD and CBPP.
164. **Côte d'Ivoire** has elaborated contingency plans for the following diseases: rinderpest, contagious bovine pleurpneumonia, peste des petits ruminants, foot and mouth disease and rabies.
165. **Swaziland** is finalising a contingency plan for FMD. The plan's outlines follow an FAO-EMPRES/SADC suggested format. A flow diagram gives the actions to take in the event of an FMD outbreak.

### III. COUNTRY REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR THE 16th REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN KHARTOUM, SUDAN, 2004

Country
Algeria
Benin
Botswana
Comoros
Côte d'Ivoire
Djibouti
Guinea
Guinea Bissau
Lesotho
Mali
Mozambique
Senegal
South Africa
Sudan
Swaziland
Togo
Uganda
Zambia

#### Discussion

166. The countries present confirmed the animal health situation and disease notification reports already submitted to the OIE, adding specific points in order to update the animal health situation.
167. The Delegate of **Zimbabwe** reported that several staff changes had regrettably resulted in the disease report for the Conference arriving late. He added that FMD is now under control. Anthrax has been a major disease reported, including outbreaks in wildlife. The disease is currently being controlled by various interventions, including vaccination.
168. The Delegate of **Uganda** complimented the Director General on the report and indicated that his country had applied for rinderpest disease free status in October 2004.
169. A representative of **Sudan** reported that CBPP is still a major problem in the Southern parts of the country. However, now that there is peace in the country, control measures are possible and will be instituted.
170. The Delegate of **Chad** reported that they did submit their country report, but that it was not included in the synthesis report due to its late submission. The Director General of the OIE replied that the report from Chad arrived too late to be included in the synthesis report, which only covered the first 18 reports received, as it takes time to have this synthesis translated.
171. **South Africa** informed participants that avian influenza in ostriches was reported in the Western Cape and requested a short presentation of the current situation.
172. The Delegate of **Eritrea** apologised for their late reporting due to restructuring of the department taking place in his country. He added that African swine fever (ASF) was confirmed by the Pirbright Laboratory and that infectious Bursal disease was diagnosed in imported chickens. He indicated that Eritrea applied for rinderpest disease free status in October 2004.
173. The Delegate of **Guinea** indicated that investigations to confirm the reported case of classical swine fever in his country are ongoing. Emergency plans for rinderpest and CBPP have been developed and will later be sent to the OIE. An outbreak of RVF in sheep in the coastal area of Guinea has been reported by the Central Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (LCVD), but as yet no data is available on the incidence and spread of the disease. He then drew attention to an omission on page 26 chapter 2 of

the report of the OIE with regard to CBPP; there are four zones instead of three: endemic, buffer zone, surveillance and freedom from disease.

174. The Delegate of **Mali** commented that the presence of 12 List A diseases in Africa as indicated in the report is alarming and that efforts should be undertaken to conduct vaccinations and guard against emerging diseases, such as HPAI. He stressed the necessity for cooperation in the fight against transborder diseases.
175. In response to a query from the Delegate of **Egypt** regarding the handling by the OIE of the dossier sent in January to apply for rinderpest freedom, the Director General replied that it was submitted late and still has to undergo the OIE procedures. He explained the procedure followed by the OIE to determine the status of a country's freedom from this disease. There are deadlines to be respected for successive examination of the dossiers prior to their submission to the OIE International Committee for approval.
176. A representative of **Gabon** pointed out that they had experienced problems in putting in place the PACE programme and that the laboratory is not yet operational. She rectified the disease reporting situation and indicated that ASF was reported in the area bordering Cameroon, and that Newcastle disease is endemic in the country. She added that they will make every effort to submit the animal health situation report before the end of the week.
177. The chairperson commented that the countries in Africa are undergoing a vicious circle with restructuring taking place amidst the new challenges facing them, in particular with regard to emerging diseases. This is further complicated by the lack of resources; there is thus a need to come up with viable solutions.
178. Dr George Akol from **South Africa** then made a presentation on the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) situation in South Africa.
179. He said that the mortalities ranged from 4-45% and that analysis of data to determine whether mortality was due to HPAI or to secondary causes is ongoing. Younger birds have a higher mortality than adults. The information situation is complicated by the fact that not much information is available on AI in ostriches, as it appears to differ from that of chickens.
180. In the Western Cape, no virus has been isolated although there has been serological evidence. Culling has been advocated, but the controlled slaughter out policy is being considered. There are scientific debates on the diagnosis and pathogenesis of avian influenza in ostriches.
181. In reply to a query from the Delegate of **Zimbabwe** whether there were any cases of avian influenza in chickens, Dr Akol remarked that there were no cases, as thousands tested were serologically negative.
182. The Delegate of **Mali** wished to know whether there is a hypothesis on the origin of the disease, as South Africa has a high capacity for surveillance. He expressed his anxiety as an importing country of chickens. Dr Mogajane replied that the source has not yet been determined, but that effective measures have been instituted, such as quarantine and biosecurity measures carried out in farms that were found to be serologically positive.
183. The Delegate of **Swaziland** wished to have more information on the incidences in the Western Cape, which was given.
184. In response to a query from a representative of **Sudan** as to whether avian influenza has been reported in humans in South Africa, Dr Akol commented that two persons were tested serologically positive and one actually had high titres.
185. It was reported by **South Africa** that control measures are very expensive in that so far 45 million Rand have been used.
186. The Director General subsequently informed the meeting that an International Conference on Avian Influenza will be held in Paris in April 2005 and he encouraged Delegates to attend.

187. The Chairperson brought up the problem of reports not being submitted and proposed that this issue be taken up by the new AU/IBAR Director, Dr Modibo Traoré, as a challenge.
188. The Delegate of **Uganda** cited the reason for not reporting to be attributed to negligence, but also remarked that Directors of Veterinary Services are not properly facilitated to report on time: there is a shortage of computers and of the possibility of connecting to the Internet.
189. Dr Sidibé specified that the situation regarding the low number of reports received must not be taken too dramatically. There are always late responses. However, countries must exercise more discipline in order to change the situation.
190. The new AU/IBAR Director remarked on two points: Only a quarter of the 18 countries that replied sent their reports to IBAR, namely those that have contact with them, and stressed that the circulation of information is very important. He regretted the absence of better collaboration between institutions, in particular between the OIE and IBAR, which limits exact knowledge on the situation. Some countries did report to AU-IBAR, which was a low level position, but not to the OIE Central Bureau. Dr Traoré called for improved collaboration and exchange of information with the OIE and for maintaining a monthly report to IBAR from African countries.
191. Dr Bouna Diop of PACE regretted that the IBAR person responsible for the database was not present at the conference. In his view, there is, in fact, an improvement in the irregularity of transmission of the reports. For this reason, he questioned the information on the low number of reports submitted for this conference.
192. A representative of **Sudan** added that the irregularity in the submission of reports is also linked to the problems faced by the Veterinary Services. The support of the Veterinary Services and facilitating the flow of information towards the OIE Central Bureau must be reconsidered.
193. The Delegate of **Swaziland** pointed out that Africa should be a net exporter rather than an importer for meat. He emphasised that the culture of responsibility and accountability must be inculcated and that the Member Countries should embark on transparent reporting through a sense of loyalty and commitment to our organisations. This is important in order to ensure the exchange of meaningful information. The participation of African countries in the conferences should be facilitated.
194. The Chairperson thanked the Delegate of Swaziland and again insisted on the absolute necessity for a better exchange of information and for increased efforts in improving the situation.
195. The Director General remarked that although Africa was the first group in terms of number of Members of the OIE, it was the last on reporting with only around 80% submission within an acceptable period. He fully supported Dr Mogajane's point of view concerning transparency and the submission of information. However, the change in the reporting system, which has abandoned the monthly reports and adopted a semester system through a questionnaire, might improve the situation for Africa.

## **Item I**

### **Socio-economic and animal health impact of transhumance**

196. Dr Soumana Diallo, Chairperson of the Session, introduced Prof. François Adébayo Abiola, speaker for this technical item, and called upon him to present his report.
197. Dr Diallo expressed his thanks for the honour of presiding this session. He specified that in most of the African countries, extensive stock farming and transhumance is an ancestral method of herd management. He recalled that during the last conference in Maputo, the identification and traceability of livestock was discussed. A step forward in this direction should be taken. He gave the floor to the speaker of Item I.
198. Prof. Abiola took the opportunity of thanking the OIE Central Bureau and the Regional Representation for Africa for their positive actions regarding the EISMV. He began his presentation by recalling that the aim of his report is to contribute to a better knowledge of the practice of transhumance, based on

a questionnaire sent to the African Member Countries of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). As of 19 January 2005, 24 countries had replied to the questionnaire, providing data on their livestock production and giving their assessment of the social, economic and animal health impact of transhumance.

199. **In terms of the economic importance of livestock** as reported in the questionnaire returns, it emerges that for the majority of countries:
- the livestock production share of agricultural GDP varies from 0.7 to 21.4%, except in South Africa with 43.9% and Chad with 40.0%;
  - the percentage of the national budget earmarked for animal production and sanitary controls is generally less than 2.0%, the exception being Namibia (10.9%).
200. **In terms of social impact**, conflicts between crop farmers and livestock farmers are the leading problem. These social conflicts are most frequently caused by transhumant animals damaging crops. There are also land ownership problems and, to a lesser degree, thefts of livestock, sanitary problems and power struggles. It is not yet possible to determine the potential additional employment, albeit of a temporary nature, that the practice of transhumance could generate.
201. **In terms of animal health impact**, the five most feared diseases during transhumance are foot and mouth disease (FMD), contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), peste des petits ruminants (PPR), trypanosomosis and anthrax/blackleg. The speaker commented that there are generally no estimates as to the economic cost of diseases associated with transhumance. However, in a country such as Angola the cost could be as high as EUR 8.5 million (excluding production losses).
202. When diseases occur, the scarcity of veterinary infrastructure (veterinary pharmacies, clinics, etc.), the remoteness of livestock farmers from veterinary facilities, the concerns of herders and their traditional methods of treating their animals by themselves, are all factors that limit the probability of successful treatment. In this respect, Prof. Abiola remarked that it is encouraging to note the importance that various States attach to this issue and the national and regional meetings they have organised on the subject of transhumance, with the introduction of a livestock passport and an international transhumance control certificate by some groups of countries (e.g. ECOWAS and CEBEVIRHA).
203. Finally, Prof. Abiola emphasised that it is essential to improve the way in which transhumance is organised and managed in order to reduce its negative consequences.
204. At the end of his presentation, Prof. Abiola gave some information on the Veterinary School of Dakar. He indicated that a colloquium will be held from 6 to 8 June 2005 on the topic 'What veterinary training for Africa in the future'.

### Discussion

205. The Chairperson thanked Prof. Abiola for his comprehensive and informative presentation, and invited comments and questions from the participants.
206. The discussion was introduced by Dr Sidibé who, in the light of his personal experience, indicated that festivities linked to transhumance are traditionally held in Africa, particularly in Mali. He specified that transhumance is not the only cause of transmission of transboundary diseases.
207. The Chairperson thanked Dr Sidibé for his comment and confirmed the existence of a tourist aspect of transhumance in Africa, in particular in Mali and Niger.
208. The Delegate of Cote d'Ivoire congratulated Prof. Abiola and said that he would like to make a correction to the presentation, namely, that there are 20 projects relating to animal production in general and not only specific to transhumance. He specified that in his country some 150 to 200 pastoral barriers were set up to facilitate transhumance of animals from Burkina Faso to Mali. He enquired about the advances that have been made in the field of animal identification, a subject that was discussed in Maputo two years' ago. He would like the Conference to reconsider this problem.

209. The Delegate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (RDC) also wished to correct a point regarding the economic importance of the RDC's livestock sector. It represents 2% of all exports and not 20%. Mineral exports are by far superior.
210. The Delegate of Swaziland congratulated the speaker on his comprehensive presentation. He thanked the countries that had replied to the questionnaire. He also raised concern that the important issues of animal identification and traceability were not mentioned in the report.
211. The Delegate of Tanzania also congratulated Prof. Abiola on his presentation. He corrected the figures of Tanzania's livestock population given in the report; these are 17.7 million cattle, 16.6 million sheep and goats and 800,000 pigs.
212. The Delegate of Zambia also wished to make a correction in the figure given for his country's cattle population in the paragraph below table 1 of the presentation. It should read 2,342,000.
213. On an enquiry from a representative of South Africa concerning the percentage and reasons motivating transhumance, Prof. Abiola replied that it is difficult to obtain exact numbers.
214. The Delegate of Benin complimented the speaker and specified the number of the Law in question as being 87-013 (and not 87-073). He added that studies undertaken at CEDEAO level showed that an element hindering the good progress of transhumance is the presence of weapons carried by the herdsman, who readily use them in the face of conflict, which can bring about deaths. He also noted that transhumance is not only linked to the search for pastures and water, but that it can also motivate young stockmen to become independent and to move away from their parents, possibly also hoping to find a wife.
215. Prof. Musa, a member of the Sudanese delegation, stated that the meeting should have a broader view of transhumance in Africa; it is an essential practice for securing pasture and water. Transhumance has a direct effect on birth and death rates, as well as body gain. He added that there is no possibility of halting transhumance in Africa.
216. The Delegate of Egypt spoke of the important role played by transhumance in the spread of diseases and the negative effect in livestock exports.
217. The Session Chairperson remarked that there must be an error regarding the number of poultry in Guinea Bissau. He congratulated Prof. Abiola on his presentation. He added that the reasons for transhumance could equally be of a sanitary order. Thus, the stockowners of Mali leave the Niger delta during the period of floods to avoid parasitoses. There are not only conflicts between herders and farmers; some benefit from the animals' manure.
218. Dr Cecile Squarzoni of PACE congratulated the speaker on his presentation and enquired whether the current practice of transhumance in Africa is growing or diminishing in importance, in order to adapt future training of and information for herders, animal health technicians and veterinarians in the countries concerned. She emphasised that transhumance is a very important aspect to be taken into consideration with regard to the management and surveillance of transboundary diseases.
219. The Director General indicated that with regard to identification and traceability, numerous Member Countries have asked the OIE to establish standards. This could thus become a regulation for international trade. He referred to the identification system practised in Europe as costly. The OIE will thus prepare norms, taking into account the local price of livestock, which are acceptable for all countries, including those of the African continent.
220. Prof. Abiola thanked the participants for their contribution regarding the reasons for transhumance. He invited the countries not yet having sent their questionnaires to do so in order to complete the study.
221. The Session Chairperson concluded by thanking all the participants, and then requested a small group consisting of Dr Emmanuel Namkoisse and Dr Raphael Ngaye Yankoisset (Central African Republic), Dr Peter Maina Ithondeka (Kenya) and Prof. Tibin Ahmed Musa (Sudan) to draft a recommendation on this technical item under the guidance of Prof. Abiola. The Session Chairperson also took part in the discussions.

## Presentation of the AU/IBAR Programme: 2004-2006

222. The Director General of AU/IBAR, Dr Modibo Tiemoko Traoré, underlined the current growing interest expressed by both the donors and the African governments to relaunch the livestock sector. This is an unexpected opportunity to draw lessons from past failures and to make it possible for the African Union, through AU-IBAR, to again take up the initiative to readjust the adopted strategies so as to halve by 2015 the number of persons suffering from hunger.
223. The livestock sector occupies a very special place in poverty alleviation programmes of many African countries. Over and above an important contribution to the national income (on average, 30% of the agricultural PNB) and its invaluable input in the food security of the most needy populations, livestock plays a major role in social relations within the communities and the commercial exchanges between states. In spite of the rapid growth in the demand of animal products on the continent, African producers have progressively been ousted from their traditional markets for the benefit of imports through the dumping of animal products from outside Africa.
224. Dr Traoré recalled that the resulting challenges are many and varied. They concern technical as well as political and macro-economic aspects. The variations at the national, regional or continental level could lead to an outline of the main action lines of the priority programmes: 'Integration Horizon 2007' and 'Food Security and Self-sufficiency', defined in the Action Plan 2004-2007 of the African Union Commission.
225. The Interafrican Bureau of Animal Resources (IBAR) whose mandate covers the challenges at the regional and continental level, could play a key role in the implementation of the plan, by targeting in order of priority its efforts on growth of the continent's production, facilitating trade in animals and animal products within the continent, and renewal of the basis of cooperation and partnership between Africa and the rest of the world.
226. With regard to growth of the continent's production, it must be noted that besides enhancing the local feed resources of the continent, of which an important part is currently exported, the growth in production and productivity of the African livestock requires, at both the regional and continental level, special efforts to improve the control of the animal health situation. After rinderpest, which is on its way to being eradicated, thanks to the PARC and PACE programmes, it is now important to anchor and intensify the fight against devastating epizootics, particularly through strengthening cooperation between the national Veterinary Services of the same region. This cooperation should go further than the periodical meetings institutionalised during the establishment of selective pan-African control campaigns against specific diseases, which do not survive once external funding comes to an end. It is necessary to also encourage the conservation and genetic improvement of the major local breeds on a regional basis.
227. In order to facilitate trade in animals and animal products within the continent, the priority to reconquer the domestic markets by the African producers range from a generalisation of lower tariff barriers between countries and between regional economic communities to the harmonisation of sanitary norms and trade standards. IBAR's activities in this respect could involve support to the development and application of efficient regional policies of 'epidemiological zoning' based on common priorities and involving the harmonisation of strategies and methods used to combat animal diseases in the different sub-regions. The codification of the procedures governing trade in products of animal origin and the movement of live animals (transhumance) in the interior of well-defined zones and between zones of different epidemiological status is essential.
228. Finally, the renewal of the basis of cooperation and partnership between Africa and the rest of the world and reinforcing the African presence in the international arena evidently implies the capacities of negotiation with which the African Union Commission should be endowed through specialised institutions. With reference to IBAR, this challenge would consist in: harmonising the position of African states to prepare joint negotiation platforms regarding trade issues that concern livestock products; and developing and assuring the implementation of continental strategies for protection against the introduction of epizootics and exotic diseases in the Continent. To attain this, IBAR must assure the good functioning and regionalisation of the epidemiological surveillance teams; the regular publication of a scientific review and network of the research centres and national veterinary

laboratories; and finally, the orientation of the regional livestock research programmes (animal health, animal nutrition, animal genetics) and the programmes undertaken by the international laboratories (ILRI) and other components of CGRAI, reference laboratories of ILRI and FAO) with the purpose of lifting the constraints identified on the Continent.

229. Dr Traoré concluded that besides these responsibilities, which are of a permanent nature, IBAR could play a crucial role in the Coordination of interventions by the different partners interested in the development of the livestock sector. In this respect, and while waiting for the preparation of a single reference document concerning all involved, the harmonisation of their actions constitutes a first step in the development of the new partnership so much hoped for on the Continent. In what concerns the coordination of activities at the regional and continental level that are the onus of IBAR, the importance of the reform currently being developed to adapt the institution to its new activities and functions issuing from the African Union's Strategic Plan must be underlined.

### Discussion

230. The Conference Chairperson thanked Dr Traoré and recalled the importance of the challenge of higher production in Africa. He then opened the floor for discussion.
231. A representative of Sudan noted that the priorities given are good, but the main worry is the low will for action by the African partners. The coordination of the countries is indispensable to allow for the control of animal diseases and the growth of production; however, this is lacking. He proposed the development of interafrican trade to fight against poverty.
232. Prof. Abiola congratulated Dr Traoré for his nomination to this post, which is important for the development, future of livestock and animal productions in Africa. He agreed with the evaluation of the presented perspectives and expressed his pleasure that this post was confided to Dr Traoré who, in the past, was Director of the livestock sector, then Minister, then Ambassador. He recalled that animal resources in Africa experience serious difficulties. He hoped that the competence and negotiating capacities of IBAR's new Director General will help develop the correct diagnosis of the situation and find efficient administration methods. He took up a comment made by Mr Chirac on last visiting Senegal when he said that he regrets that the true technicians are often neglected for the benefit of the economies.
233. The Conference Chairperson thanked Prof. Abiola for raising these important issues.
234. Dr Sidibé seconded Prof. Abiola's comments and recalled that one must be united to meet the many challenges and disputes around decision-makers that are always made at the cost of the livestock farmers. He specified that the support of IBAR has been essential to the Regional Representation since its creation and that he was ready to cooperate fully with Dr Traoré.
235. The Delegate of Mali congratulated Dr Traoré for the quality of his presentation and thanked him for clearing the terrain by giving an overview that must be seriously taken into consideration by the countries. He referred to Mali that exports meat to its neighbouring countries. He felt that it is possible to coordinate the countries' activities towards complementarity. He wondered how it will be possible to conciliate the increase in the countries' needs in export income while assuring the self-sufficiency of the population. He considered this to be a vicious circle, as the low consumption of meat (about 20 kg/ha/year in his country) is not only linked to the low production, but also to the poverty of the populations. How should livestock farming be developed to help diminish poverty?
236. Dr Domenech of the FAO congratulated Dr Traoré on his nomination and recalled that the problems remain and even tend to grow in Africa. He noted the important progress obtained through the PARC and PACE programmes. He specified that the FAO is ready to fully sustain IBAR through an integrated approach in the livestock sector. The FAO will do the maximum to carry on the efforts in Africa.
237. The Delegate of Zimbabwe also felt that Dr Traoré is the right person in this post to guide the countries. He supported the will to reinforce the influence of Africa in the world and he hoped that this will be possible.



238. The Delegate of Uganda congratulated Dr Traoré and felt that he arrived at a key moment when the livestock sector must face new challenges: he hoped that his experience can be used to efficiently combat the problems in the livestock sector. He regretted that Africa's leaders do not give enough consideration to the problems for which disease control is necessary. The contribution of the ministries to the livestock sector are insufficient, and he felt that Dr Traoré's task will be difficult and that he will need much support.
239. The Delegate of Nigeria remarked that the engagement of African leaders is a major challenge and a priority.
240. Dr Traoré thanked his colleagues for their encouragement. He recalled that the challenges are common to everyone. He regretted that everyday imports to Africa are increasing, a situation that does not make the veterinary profession proud. He confirmed that the visibility of the sector as well as sensitivity to the policies is very important. He would like primary production to be more enhanced on the continent to create more riches and added value to the products. He regretted the low coordination and will of the states that would gain considerably by developing local transformation policies. He recalled the importance of the actions developed by the PACE programme and hoped that it will continue; he asked the partners to support IBAR. In the light of the difficult period that remains, he asked the countries to double their fervour and recalled that only African integration will be salutary.
241. The Conference Chairperson thanked Dr Traoré for his clear vision of the future and proposed to move on to the presentation of the OIE Strategic Plan.

#### **Fourth OIE Strategic Plan**

242. Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE, gave a short overview of the Fourth OIE Strategic Plan, which covers the period 2005 to 2010.
243. The Director General commented that the Fourth Strategic Plan builds on the success of the Third Strategic Plan. He indicated that the global vision of the OIE enunciated in the Third Strategic Plan has been globally retained and added that, in fact, the Fourth Strategic Plan is an organic development of the successful Third Strategic Plan.
244. Dr Vallat pointed out that two new strategic elements have been added. The first of these is capacity building, which enhances linkages between national Veterinary Services and financial and development institutions. In addition to its role as a catalyst for major capacity building activities, the OIE will also provide support to Member Countries wishing to become more fully engaged in the work of the Organisation in the form of training materials and training programmes for official Delegates, especially new Delegates. The second new element identified in the Fourth Strategic Plan deals with strengthening the OIE's influence on policy design, veterinary research and governance in animal health and welfare.
245. With regard to institutional arrangements and funding of the Fourth Strategic Plan, Dr Vallat emphasised that the visibility of the OIE to the general public, media, decision-makers, veterinary professionals and farmers will be enhanced. The Plan foresees adjustments to the design and scale of assessed contributions in order to facilitate the recovery of contributions from all Members. He added that there will be greater flexibility for voluntary contributions regarding the manner in which they can be made and from which sources.
246. The Conference Chairperson thanked the Director General and emphasised the importance of the plan for the years to come. He asked the participants to give their comments if they so wished. As there was no objection, the Director General presented the ALive platform.

#### **Presentation of the ALive Programme**

247. The Director General subsequently outlined the ALive Programme. ALive (African Livestock) is a Partnership based on a multi-stakeholder platform to reposition Africa's livestock sector higher up the agendas of national, regional and international decision-makers by highlighting the sector's major

implications for poverty alleviation and for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. ALive is the result of strong demand from African countries, draws lessons from recent experiences by the African countries concerned and by donors (“livestock evolution”), and is inspired by rational prospects for the sector (“livestock revolution”). Initiated by the World Bank (2002), ALive soon freed itself from the World Bank’s administrative supervision by securing the approval of the various key stakeholders in the sector. It is now a voluntary, recognised and shared approach.

248. The Partnership was officially inaugurated at the Inaugural General Assembly in Paris in May 2004, when its objectives, governance, financial mechanisms and a first programme of activities were drawn up and enshrined in the founding texts of ALive: the Conceptual Memorandum, Operational Guidelines and the Constitutional Resolution.
249. The Partnership was assigned five objectives:
- To develop a common long-term vision, subdivided into harmonised sectoral and cross-cutting strategies and policies.
  - To increase the participation of funding and development agencies and to coordinate them.
  - To build capacity and pool knowledge.
  - To promote technology and the associated transfer mechanisms.
  - To increase analytical and operational support both quantitatively and qualitatively.
250. Although these objectives are still just as valid to the current needs of the sector, some might be seen as duplicating the objectives of existing programmes and/or initiatives. It is imperative for the Partnership to be unanimously considered as a consultation framework (livestock Comprehensive Development Framework) integrating current or future initiatives as they come on stream. ALive’s existence is justified by the adjustments or policy changes that will be required to ensure the necessary consistency and complementarity between such initiatives, and are what give ALive its added value.
251. The Partnership’s governance, as set out in the Operational Guidelines, is comprised of: (1) the General Assembly, an advisory body open to all the partners and divided into Colleges, to discuss ALive’s guidelines and priorities; (2) the Executive Committee, a decision-making and technical body to decide on the annual programmes of activities and to adapt the guidelines issued by the General Assembly. In its initial version the Executive Committee includes fifteen members duly mandated by their respective institutions and thus reflects the diverse stakeholders concerned; and (3) the Secretariat, headed by a Programme Manager, to monitor/evaluate the Partnership, public communication and partner search/mobilisation. The Secretariat is situated at World Bank headquarters in Washington, USA, but the texts provide for it to be transferred to an African institution after the first three-year phase [2004-2007]. The group of founding donors (WB, EU and the French Foreign Affairs Ministry) has appointed the OIE to chair the ALive General Assembly (Dr Niang) and Executive Committee (Dr Vallat) during this first phase. The ALive Inaugural General Assembly officially ratified this decision.
252. In the absence of a precise definition in the Operational Guidelines for the notion of “partners” (an amendment is planned), ALive partners are currently considered to be the institutions/organisations which participated in the Inaugural General Assembly (Paris, May 2004), and which contributed funding to the programme or have played either a decision-making role (e.g. as a member of the Executive Committee) or a technical role (by providing activities). The initial list of partners figuring in the Constitutional Resolution of the Partnership (May 2004) includes 24 institutions/organisations that are not only geographically representative (all four Regional Economic Communities are present), but also involve all the key stakeholders (representatives from the Colleges of African Institutions, donors, and research and training organisations, as well as international organisations). Although an initial critical mass to safeguard the livestock sector can be considered to have already been achieved both quantitatively and qualitatively, the list of ALive partners is still open to any new institution/organisation that wishes to make any kind of contribution to the Partnership.
253. The ALive concept hinges on three closely linked and mutually beneficial strategic and technical themes. The regional vision (Theme 1) will be fuelled largely by the other two sub-regional and national themes:

**Theme 1:** developing vision, strategy and collaboration between partners throughout the African continent, to encourage and promote collaboration between key stakeholders, to reconcile existing approaches, to define a common and shared vision of livestock production as it relates to food safety and to develop harmonised strategies. The chosen guidelines will simply be recommendations, since it is not the purpose of ALive to set standards and it cannot replace mandated standard-setting institutions (OIE and FAO). However, the OIE resolutions recognise the ALive platform as an appropriate framework for exchanges and consultations on livestock issues.

**Theme 2:** building capacity and pooling knowledge on a sub-regional scale to bridge existing institutional, technical and organisational gaps in the livestock sector of developing countries.

**Theme 3:** analytical and operational assistance, orchestrated at national level, to help the countries to formulate the potential contribution of livestock production to the goal of poverty alleviation and sustainable economic growth, to promote the integration of these results into the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and to promote the operationality of the recommendations amongst the donors.

A **fourth theme** – support for ALive governance – targets the actual operation of the Partnership by holding annual General Assemblies and quarterly Executive Committee meetings, as well as conducting the tasks assigned to the Secretariat by the ALive General Assembly and Executive Committee (see point 4). This theme is therefore of crucial importance for the key platform role which ALive is intended to play.

254. In sectoral terms, ALive takes its inspiration from the approach formerly promoted by the ILRI, which is seen as the most coherent approach to cover all the sector's needs, across all branches: to secure existing capital, boost market access and intensify production.
255. As part of this multifaceted architecture, the Executive Committee has adopted a first programme of activities for the 2004-2007 period. It includes:

**Activities under the direct supervision of the Partnership.** The Executive Committee has chosen some of the 18 listed activities as priorities (meeting of 28 July 2004). They are: (1) reviewing the livestock portfolios of development agencies and Regional Economic Communities; (2) drawing up policy memorandums for a range of issues, starting with access to water and grazing resources and veterinary care provision; (3) reinforcing Veterinary Services (in relation with the Global Framework for Transboundary Animal Diseases – GF-TADs); (4) access to international markets through compliance with SPS standards; (5) the entire package relating to the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers for livestock, including the methodology stemming from the Mauritania and Burkina Faso exercises, an associated teaching module, herd modelling software (DAMS) and second-generation country exercises supported by the above-mentioned tools, and lastly; (6) the four Theme 4 activities (support for governance), the importance of which was described in point 7.

**Parallel activities,** managed independently by a donor agency which can be included in the ALive framework if it can be justified to the Executive Committee that they comply with the principles of the Partnership (compliance with sectoral guidelines, complementarity and non-duplication of existing initiatives; harmonisation of funds; pooling of results). The ALive seal of approval will give initiatives a guarantee – from the entire livestock sphere – that they are encompassed within an integrated and coherent framework of livestock development and this should logically make it easier to harness the funding to implement them. So far the European Union's PRINT and IGAD frontline States initiatives are the two parallel initiatives registered.

256. In terms of arrangements for financial contributions to the Partnership, a **Multi-Donor Trust Fund** (MDTF) is the preferred option for pooling resources effectively and, using the principle of non-earmarking, for covering all programme activities and making it coherent and effective. This source of funding is seen as particularly relevant for the main activities contributing to the organisation and operation of the ALive platform (Themes 1 and 4). For the first phase of the Partnership, the Multi-Donor Trust Fund is being housed by World Bank headquarters in Washington and is subject to the institution's management procedures. A detailed report is distributed to the contributors every year. However, **parallel funding** identifies clearly the contributing donor and applies essentially in the case of the parallel activities described in point 9. However, a donor may wish to finance an activity under the supervision of the Partnership: this is the case with the STDF contribution to activities for reinforcing Veterinary Services and boosting access to international markets, as well as the activity of the CGIAR for drawing up the memorandum on animal health research.

Finally, contributions to ALive may be made **in kind**, by making available any premises, equipment or human resources needed by the Partnership.

257. Short-term aims include increasing the involvement of African institutions and ensuring that they adopt the Partnership fully as a tool for the sustainable and integrated development of the livestock sector. Strong representation by African institutions in the ALive Executive Committee offers them the opportunity to “steer” the Partnership towards issues of concern to them. Furthermore, two events should also rapidly help to achieve these objectives:
- **The strong political involvement of the African Union**, via the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture which, after a process of regional consultation notably in the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources, should result in aligning ALive priorities with those of the African Union. There have already been precedents, since, back in 2003, NEPAD (the New Partnership for Africa's Development, an African Union programme) had identified ALive as the operational arm for implementing the CAADP2.
  - **The transfer of the Secretariat to an African institution after the first phase of the Partnership** – whether or not it retains its trust-fund management task. A study will be conducted of possible host institutions to appoint the most appropriate institution to host the Secretariat, at the decision of the Executive Committee.
258. In conclusion, the Director General emphasised that ALive is a pilot Partnership that could, if appropriate, be extended to regions outside Africa.

#### Discussion

259. The Conference Chairperson thanked the Director General and called on the participants to give their comments on the ALive programme.
260. The Delegate of South Africa thanked the Director General for this very important information on ALive, particularly with regard to the means of accessing their Web site and obtaining more documentation. She enquired on the implementation aspects of the programme and on what is expected in this context from the countries. She insisted on the necessity for good communication to ensure the adherence of all interested parties.
261. The Delegate of Zimbabwe requested the Director General to clarify the relations between ALive and IBAR.
262. The Delegate of Swaziland thanked the Director General for the clarifications given on ALive and indicated that even though the documents were received by the Delegates, there still remain some questions to be answered. In fact, ALive being a programme of relevance to Africa the current position of the project in the United States of America is questioned. He would also appreciate come information on the coordination of the programme: how is the general Assembly linked to the Executive Committee and the Secretariat to the national leadership?
263. In response, the Director General referred to the original conception of ALive: when the OIE signed the official Agreement with the World Bank in 2001 the latter came to realise the importance of livestock raising and finally perceived animal health and the Veterinary Services in the public and private context. This was a totally new event on the part of the principal funding donor in the world.
264. Dr Vallat remarked that the difficulty is, however, in the choice of the means to implement this new policy. The necessity of urgently putting the ALive platform in place motivated the choice of Washington. He added that the transfer of the Secretariat to Africa will depend on the intention of the representatives expressed during the OIE General Session in May. With regard to the contents of ALive's policy, the OIE's objective is to do its utmost to raise the capacities of the Veterinary Services that participate in setting up international standards. It is thus in particular necessary that the countries have a recognised scientific community. This will be one of ALive's objectives. The involvement of the private sector will also be an essential element to take into account. Concerning governance in Africa, the Director General specified that the procedures are transparent and that they can be consulted on the ALive Web site.

Finally, Dr Vallat indicated that ALive should make it possible to dispose of relevant analytical tools allowing for the preparation of investment files to the benefit of the livestock sector by using convincing arguments for the Ministers of Agriculture and Finances and the funding donors.

265. The Conference Chairperson concluded by thanking all the participants, and then requested a small group consisting of Dr Rachid Bouguedour (Algeria), Dr Robert Thwala (Swaziland), Dr Daouda Bangoura (Guinea), Dr Mahamat Ahmat Abderamane (Chad), Dr Bashir Taha Mohamed Taha (Sudan) and Dr Modibo Tiemoko Traoré (AU/IBAR) to draft a recommendation on 'animal health and production policies and implementation mechanisms in Africa'.

**Tuesday, 8 February 2005**

## **ITEM II**

### **The implications of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) for the livestock industry in Africa**

266. The Session Chairperson, Dr Robert Thwala, briefly introduced the speaker for this item, Dr Julian Jaftha, and invited him to present his report.
267. Dr Jaftha began his presentation by recalling that major interventions to improve agricultural performances in the developing world would be required to free it from pressing food insecurities. Livestock contributes both on a social and economic level to the livelihoods of the poor. In the face of increasing population numbers and the subsequent demand for more safe and nutritious food, livestock production would need to increase.
268. The speaker pointed out that the potential contribution of biotechnology to increasing agricultural productivity has long been recognised. However, finding appropriate application of this technology within the unique African agricultural systems is a major challenge.
269. Realising the complexities of issues surrounding the application of biotechnology, members of the Regional Commission for Africa were surveyed on several aspects of genetic modification in general as well as its particular application in the livestock sector. Realising that biotechnology is not a 'fix all' solution for the growing demand to produce more food, questions were also construed in such a way as to gain insight into other existing policies, programmes and strategies, which would ensure a coordinated integrated approach to improving animal production. Although many countries did not provide much detail, a number of relevant policy initiatives, programmes and strategies do exist.
270. Dr Jaftha indicated that most countries considered the application of biotechnology in disease management as most appropriate, followed by its application in animal nutrition. Although embryo transfers and *in vitro* fertilisation takes place in many countries, the potential for application of genetic modification of animals and marker-assisted selection were ranked much lower.
271. Dr Jaftha added that a number of constraints that influences the application of biotechnology were highlighted, including scientific capacities, trade, institutional set-ups and the interaction among different sectors.

### **Discussion**

272. The Session Chairperson thanked Dr Jaftha for his comprehensive presentation and invited comments and questions from the floor.
273. A representative of Sudan commented that there is a need to increase the scientific capacity in the area of biotechnology with particular emphasis on GMOs.
274. Dr Domenech of the FAO commented on the following points:
- the importance and implications of the use of GMOs with regard to genetic resistance in pathogens.
  - Issues regarding conservation of species and genetic erosion should be addressed.

- Africa should be assisted in developing capacity in research and development with regard to biotechnology, and this should be brought to an international or multi-national level. The setting up of regional biotechnology platforms should be supported.
  - the use of biotechnology techniques, to increase animal production through the development of new biotechnology tools, including GMOs: vaccines, diagnostic tests, *in vitro* reproduction techniques.
275. A representative of Sudan referred to the Gezira Scheme where a species of sorghum was introduced. The new species had good agronomical characteristics, but was unpalatable and had poor post-harvest storage quality. He wondered what happens to livestock when GMOs are introduced. However, the use of biotechnology/GMOs as regards disease diagnosis, treatment and vaccine production is recommended. He added that research in biotechnology could be used to identify plants or grasses, which could improve the immune status of animals.
276. The Delegate of Algeria declared that GMOs could have harmful consequences on the conservation of biodiversity. The still unknown consequences on the environment should be addressed. He wondered whether Africa is ready to meet these new technologies. Care should be taken that Africa is not used as an experimental field. GMOs must thus be monitored.
277. The Delegate of Zimbabwe stressed the risks of feeding GMOs, for example, grains to livestock. He enquired about the available research that would allow the determination of the causes of natural resistance in animals. The possibility of transferring these resistances to other species should be evaluated.
278. A representative of Sudan was concerned about the effect of artificially changing genomes in livestock.
279. The Delegate of Uganda expressed the fears of developing countries, in particular the fear of ethical/religious implications. He preferred the positive and negative impact of GMOS to be known before accepting their use. Uganda is presently developing its scientific capacities.
280. The representative of the European Union remarked that this is a sensitive issue for the EU. Labelling appropriately is a requirement.
281. The Director General gave the current position of the OIE. He said that GMOs should be separated from other biotechnologies, such as artificial insemination and embryo transfer. With regard to GMOs, it is the task of the Codex Alimentarius to provide standards for the international community in food and feed applications. In Africa, IBAR should take the lead. Regarding animal health, recombinant vaccines exist, for example for rabies, and this scope is within the scope of the OIE mandate. The OIE is open on this issue following assessment. Dr Vallat also mentioned that the GMO virus to control animal populations is not yet acceptable to the experts of the OIE. He added that the OIE accepts the need to raise Africa's capacities regarding the African scientific veterinary community, in assisting by twinning of laboratories and research centres of the North and South, or of Africa and other countries of the South. This is essential for Africa to be able to participate in groups of experts preparing international standards.
282. The Session Chairperson concluded the discussion by thanking all the participants. He then requested a small group consisting of Dr Stuart Hargreaves (Zimbabwe), Dr William Olaho-Mukani (Uganda), Dr Yolande Mounguengui and Dr Aubierge Moussavou (Gabon), Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane (South Africa) and Dr Robert Thwala (Swaziland) to draft a recommendation on this technical item with the support of Dr Jaftha.

#### **Update on OIE actions in aquatic animal health**

283. The Conference Chairperson then asked Prof. Eli Katunguka-Rwakishaya, member of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, and Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, to give an update on developments in aquatic animal health activities in the OIE.

284. Prof. Katunguka-Rwakishaya recalled that although the OIE remit has covered aquatic animals for over forty years, national Delegates of some Member Countries do not seem to fully recognise their resulting responsibilities regarding, for example, aquatic animal disease reporting obligations, neither do they use their position to influence the setting of international aquatic animal health standards through the OIE.
285. The speaker reminded participants that the Aquatic Animals Commission prepares the OIE international standards for aquatic animals with the assistance of internationally renowned experts who also contribute towards the scientific objectives of the OIE. The views of the Delegates of Member Countries are systematically sought through the circulation of draft and revised texts. In addition, the Aquatic Animals Commission now collaborates closely with the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission on issues needing a harmonised approach, and with the Biological Standards and Scientific Commissions to ensure that the Aquatic Animals Commission is using the latest scientific information in its work. The Aquatic Animals Commission has its own pages on the OIE Web site ([http://www.oie.int/aac/eng/en\\_fdc.htm](http://www.oie.int/aac/eng/en_fdc.htm)). These pages link directly to all documents specific to aquatic animals, and they also feature updates on aquatic animal disease developments around the world.
286. He added that, unfortunately, the level of engagement of Member Countries with the OIE regarding draft texts for the *Aquatic Code* and the *Aquatic Manual* is very low. This means that many Member Countries do not take up the opportunity to influence the setting of international standards that underpin international trade. It is also the experience of the Aquatic Animals Commission that, in many Member Countries, the Commission's meeting reports – which have the draft revised or new texts appended – reach aquatic animal health experts either too late for meaningful comment, or not at all. It is also disappointing to see how little use Member Countries make of the Aquatic Animals Commission's Web pages that provide easy and free access to very useful information.
287. In conclusion, Prof. Katunguka-Rwakishaya indicated that the fundamental changes to the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* adopted in 2003 and 2004 include new criteria for OIE listing of aquatic animal diseases and the requirements for reporting on the status of the listed diseases and those for reporting non-listed diseases. It is important that Member Countries fully understand these new arrangements and accept and fulfil their obligations on reporting aquatic animal diseases to the OIE.

### Discussion

288. The Conference Chairperson thanked the speaker for his presentation and recalled the importance of aquatic diseases and the necessity for reporting cases of diseases listed by the OIE.
289. The representative of the European Union thanked the speaker for his excellent presentation. He wished to add a comment concerning the *Aquatic Code*. He regretted that there is too little time for the Delegates to give their comments on the proposals for the modification of the *Code*.
290. A representative of South Africa indicated that it is regrettable that fish diseases are not sufficiently covered in veterinary school training. He suggested that short and medium term courses should be organised for veterinary officials and introduced in veterinary schools. In addition, universities should form a network to exchange information on fish diseases. Countries such as Egypt and Uganda should take a lead. He added that the development of aquaculture can play a major role in alleviating poverty and will provide a source of protein.
291. A representative of Uganda thanked the speaker for his very interesting presentation and commented that close contacts do not always exist between the Veterinary Services and the other authorities, which or often responsible for handling the diagnostics sector. He stated that many countries do not notify aquatic diseases. Even if this sector is not the responsibility of the Veterinary Services, it is easy to see from the auditing undertaken by the EU and USDA that the handling of this sector is satisfactory. The representative felt that each country should choose the authority to handle the sending of reports to the OIE and to avoid imposing this responsibility on the Veterinary Services.

292. Dr Diop of PACE expressed his satisfaction that the OIE decided to discuss this important subject. He specified that the statistics indicated for tilapia raising give only a partial idea of the situation. In fact, there is a lack of information. He added that in West Africa (particularly in Senegal and Mauritania) fish products represent the most important exports; however, the competent services are not Veterinary Services and the data that they can collect only gives partial information. He would like those responsible for aquaculture to be invited to the OIE General Session.
293. At the request of the Conference Chairperson, Dr Domenech of the FAO specified that his department is not responsible for aquatic animals and that he thus cannot give a precise opinion.
294. The representative of COMESA indicated that he will discuss this area in his presentation.
295. A representative of Sudan underlined that in his country aquaculture is not yet an important aspect of the existence of a government policy in favour of these productions. He indicated that veterinary training is not really concerned with this subject.
296. A representative of Uganda recalled that it is not only a matter of fish, but aquatic animals in general. He indicated that animal health is a veterinary issue and that the OIE must insist on the fact that aquatic animal diseases concern veterinarians. He added that this does not exclude that veterinarians should work in harmony with the other professions involved in the aquatic sector.
297. The Delegate of Egypt underlined that to avoid heavy metal residues is of major importance and that he would like to correct the data given in the paper; the total fish production in Egypt is 850,000 tons, of which fish farm production represents about 3,000 tons.
298. The Director General indicated that the issues concerning the missions of the Veterinary Services in the area of aquatic animal diseases were specified during the General Session of May 2004 and that a recommendation was adopted by all the Member Countries in this connection. All the continents have the same problems with regard to the authorities' competence for aquatic animals. He recalled that it is not the competence of the OIE to choose the authorities responsible for the controls; these decisions are taken at country level. What is important is that the Delegate nominated by his government transmits the reports and provides his country's comments on the proposals of the norms prepared by the OIE. A letter was circulated to the Delegates, so that they can nominate a national focal point for the transmission of sanitary information on aquatic animals under their responsibility. It is not necessary that this focal point is situated within the Veterinary Services; it is the sovereign choice of each Member Country. This is the solution found at this stage to solve the difficulties.
299. Dr Katunguka specified that it would, in fact, be necessary to improve the courses for veterinarians in order to increase their knowledge in this field and equally propose short courses adapted to the needs of veterinarians.

#### **OIE Regional Representation for Africa**

300. Dr Amadou Samba Sidibé, Representative of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa, briefly reviewed the activities of the Regional Representation for 2004.
301. The Representative remarked that the activities of the Regional Representation have been carried out in accordance with the programme adopted by the 15th OIE Regional Conference in Maputo in 2003. He recalled that the main aim of the Regional Representation's activities, in the short and medium term, is to improve access to regional and international markets for animals and animal products by meeting OIE standards and gradually complying with the obligations of the SPS agreement. The objectives are to:
- ◆ **Ensure good quality and reliable information** on animal diseases and zoonoses and to make sure that OIE standards are complied with.



- ◆ **Improve the capabilities** of Chief Veterinary Officers and other animal health actors, by organising courses or seminars deemed by the countries of the region to be a priority, in order to improve the knowledge and practice of OIE standards.
  - ◆ **Strengthen cooperation with sub-regional organisations.**
302. The activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa cover all 50 OIE Member Countries, 32 of which participate in AU/IBAR's PACE programme. Cape Verde, Liberia and the Seychelles are the only African countries that are still not members of the OIE.
303. The European Union is providing the OIE Regional Representation for Africa with temporary finance via the PACE programme. In addition, the Regional Representation and the OIE Central Bureau have prepared a special support programme for animal health policies in Africa in order to appeal for funding from funding agencies when PACE programme funding comes to an end. Missions and meetings have been held with the countries and sub-regional organisations to ensure the smooth implementation of the programme.
304. The principal results concerning each of the objectives are as follows:
1. **Improving the Quality and Reliability of Animal Health Information:**
    - Monitoring the receipt of animal health reports.
    - Monitoring the OIE procedure for declaring countries free from rinderpest.
    - Monitoring the status of Rift Valley fever in the countries of the Horn of Africa and East Africa.
    - Monitoring the status of foot and mouth disease in the SADC zone.
  2. **Boosting the Technical Capabilities of Veterinary Services:**
    - ◆ Drawing up the Fourth OIE Strategic Plan: contribution from the Regional Commission for Africa to the Fourth Strategic Plan, to be adopted at the 73rd General Session (2005).
    - **Actions by the Director General in Support of African Countries**

Search for the supplementary funding needed to boost the activities of the Regional Representation for Africa:

      - ALive Programme.
      - STDF Programme (Standards for Trade Development Facility)
      - FAO/OIE Cooperation Programme to control transboundary diseases, GF-TADs.
      - Programme to support animal disease policies in Africa.
      - Follow-up on actions taken in accordance with the recommendations of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa at Maputo.
      - Regional Representation web site.
    - ◆ Programme to support animal disease policies in Africa (prepared by the OIE Regional Representation for Africa)
    - ◆ Seminar on the Implementation of International Animal Health Standards: the Quest for Solutions, Cairo (Egypt), 11-13 October 2004

The main objective of this seminar was to boost the capabilities of the Veterinary Services from the Africa and Middle East regions of the OIE, in order to facilitate the access of animals and animal products from these regions to regional and international markets.

### 3. Strengthening Cooperation with Sub-Regional Organisations:

Policies for setting up sub-regional branch offices of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa (SADC – AMU). The programme concerns SADC and an agreement has already been signed.

#### Discussion

305. The Conference Chairperson thanked Dr Sidibé for his presentation and gave the floor to the Director General.
306. The Director General wished to clarify the situation of the world-wide Regional Representations. He recalled that there were five and that their creation had been decided by vote of the Regional Commissions. The International Committee subsequently approved these decisions. He pointed out that the OIE is thus responsible for their sustainability. All the Regional Representations are financed by the Member Countries of the Regional Commissions, except for Africa, considering the economic situation. Dr Vallat pointed out that these problems do not only concern the Regional Representation for Africa. The search for outside funds applies to all other regional and sub-regional organisations in Africa, including the African Union, that need outside funding for their activities.
307. The new policy of the OIE in Africa is to set up sub-regional offices in accordance with sub-regional organisations. Discussions were held on opening sub-regional offices in the SADC and AMU (Maghreb) zones. This possibility is also open to other sub-regions.
308. The Director General specified that Dr Sidibé will organise a seminar on the role of stockmen in the surveillance of animal diseases. In fact, the implication of partners of the private sector in the field of management of animal diseases was recognised in the OIE *Terrestrial Code*. It is still necessary to work on the statutory veterinary corps scheme and on a definition of the stockmen implicated in surveillance. He stressed that it is necessary to arrive at a consensus in Africa, which through the Regional Commission will allow the transformation of these opinions into international norms.
309. The Conference Chairperson thanked the Director General and asked the participants to give their comments.
310. The Delegate of Mali wished to obtain some particulars from Dr Sidibé, namely whether lighter recognition procedures have been foreseen with regard to rinderpest and whether changes in the channelling circuit of these dossiers exist, which have to be submitted by IBAR to obtain a preliminary opinion on the part of the PACE epidemiologists.
311. He also wished to know the number of countries that send their reports to the OIE Regional Representation for Africa. In this respect, the Regional Representative recalled that the reports must be sent directly to the OIE Central Bureau with copy to the Regional Representation. He felt that the opening of sub-regional offices is not in line with the spirit of integration, which is necessary on a continental level.
312. The Delegate of South Africa informed the meeting that it is perhaps important for Africa to review the activities of the office in Mali, also considering the hospitality given by the Mali government. She mentioned that Africa seems to be in the same situation as it was in Maputo. The Regional Representation does not appear to deal with emergency issues in Africa. In comparing the activities of this office with those of other regions, Africa is lagging behind. She emphasised the importance of strengthening this office, in order to give support to the sub-regional offices in Africa. In response, Dr Sidibé evoked the financial means of the Representation, a limiting factor for the accomplishment of projects. He recalled that the question is not where the Regional Representation is situated, but what means are available. He evoked the political progress in Africa, which is linked to the actions of the Regional Representation and which has now been reinforced by the arrival of a new colleague, Caroline Planté, a veterinarian.
313. A representative of Sudan expressed his favourable opinion on the creation of sub-regional units, which will be in a better position to address local problems. He suggested that another sub-region in Eastern Africa should be created.

314. Prof. Abiola congratulated Dr Sidibé on his presentation and indicated that the founding of the Regional Representation is a positive action, at the same time expressing his reservation concerning the setting up sub-regional offices. He specified that adjustments must still be made at the technical and political levels. He felt that a recommendation should be made by IBAR on the opportunity to multiply the sub-regional representations.
315. He finally wished to know the implication of the OIE and the Regional Representation in the management of the Dakar Laboratory, considering its recognition as an OIE Reference Laboratory, in particular regarding the possibilities of financial support. The Director General replied that the Central Bureau does not finance the Reference Laboratories, but North-South and South-South twinings of laboratories could also be envisaged for this laboratory to provide support. Furthermore, the European Union is interested in launching a platform on vaccines and in assisting the countries to develop new vaccines, particularly in Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. There are thus possibilities for assistance in the years to come, but not immediately.
316. Following the issues relating to rinderpest raised by the Delegate of Mali, Dr Diop of PACE specified that a workshop was organised on the relevant procedures in October 2004. Recommendations were, in fact, made to countries to submit their dossiers to PACE so that they can be controlled before transmission to the OIE. He noted that only four to five countries have done so and encouraged the other countries to rapidly submit their dossiers. He spoke of the new procedure of notifying diseases to the OIE, which no longer includes the requirement of a monthly report. He felt that the old system must at least be kept at IBAR level, namely, a monthly report would be desirable to encourage African countries to improve their rate of reporting. This also has an educational character, as it involves an effort of awareness on the part of the countries. He then evoked the issue of financing the Regional Representation and felt that this should be handled by the OIE Central Bureau.
317. The Director of IBAR also felt that it is necessary to keep the old system.
318. The Director General recalled that the durability of the Regional Representation always poses a problem. At the end of the PACE programme, the responsibility of the OIE will be to find solutions for this funding. He referred to the example of financial support given by the Central Bureau to the Regional Representation when the PACE funds were blocked. The OIE budget must be a guarantee for the functioning of the Regional Representation, but in the light of its means cannot constitute the only source of funding. He expressed his opinion regarding the competition between the Regional Representation in Mali and the sub-regional offices of the OIE. He recalled the tasks of the sub-regional offices, which will essentially consist of actions related to capacity building for the development of the capacities of the Veterinary Services and concluded that there could be no competition in this context.
319. The Conference Chairperson thanked Dr Sidibé and apologised to the persons that did not have the possibility to give their comments due to the limited time available.

#### **Animal welfare: global challenge and global perspective in Africa**

320. Dr Solomon J.M. Munyua, Pastoral Policy Specialist and Team Leader at the AU-IBAR, gave a short report on animal welfare in Africa, based on the report prepared by Dr W.N. Masiga (former Director of AU-IBAR) and himself.
321. Dr Munyua began his presentation by pointing out that for the purpose of the paper, animal welfare is defined as the physical and psychological state of an animal as regards its attempt to cope with the environment.
322. The livestock production systems, production objectives, the culture of the livestock keepers and the close relationship between them and their livestock have evolved over the years and have influenced the quality of animal welfare in Africa. The same level and quality of care for livestock, however, are not evident in the care of companion animals, especially dogs and donkeys, which are often punished. In the densely populated highland and humid coastal belts of Africa, profit driven commercial large-scale intensive livestock production systems predominate.

The operators in these production systems do not, however, exhibit the same kind of attachment or relationship with their livestock, as the main production objective is maximisation of profit. In this system, some animals and birds are kept in sub-standard houses, which greatly restrict movement.

323. In Africa, conservation of wildlife habitat is part of animal welfare; however, with an increasing population, demand on land for grazing, cultivation and housing, wildlife reserves are rapidly diminishing. This has essentially meant that land previously set aside for wildlife and forests is being encroached upon, while previously unsettled plains and marginal lands are turned over to agriculture and mining. Unlike domestic animals, there are no societal and cultural norms or set 'standards of care of wildlife'. In most places, the human - wildlife conflict is so bad that wildlife is considered a pest and a menace to be decimated. This is especially so where wildlife destroys crops, attacks humans and their livestock or transmits diseases to them.
324. In conclusion, Dr Munyua observed that for the control of wildlife in situations and/or areas where professional advice is absent, all manner of crude weapons, poisons and traps are being used to kill animals. He stressed that education in the welfare of wildlife is, therefore, necessary to prevent cruelty to wildlife. It is also necessary to legislate against unwarranted animal abuse in countries where relevant laws are non-existent.

#### **GF-TADs implementation and other OIE/FAO collaboration programmes**

325. Dr Joseph Domenech, Chief of the Animal Health Service, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), gave an overview of the implementation of GF-TADs and other collaboration programmes between the FAO and the OIE.
326. The FAO and OIE signed a new general Agreement in Paris in May 2004, replacing a preceding one that was signed almost half a century ago. The context in which the two organisms have evolved has changed considerably; it was thus essential to review the methods and main fields of collaboration between the two organisations.
327. The respective mandates and missions of the FAO and OIE are in general different and well defined. Although they are at times very closely related, the synergies and complementarities are always clearly defined. If the OIE has a well established and acknowledged role in the setting up of norms and standards as well as in the distribution of official information, the contribution of the FAO can represent considerable support. Likewise, if the FAO carries out its mandate and missions on the basis of support to development by its actions in the field, the OIE can give well determined support, in particular with regard to the application of norms and standards by the competent national authorities.
328. Regarding the setting up of disease control strategies, livestock breeding and animal health policies or good animal rearing practices, the FAO has a clear and important reference role, and collaboration with the OIE can enhance the potential capabilities and approaches of the two organisations.
329. In respect of the epidemiological analysis of sanitary information aimed at understanding the dynamics of diseases, there is considerable advantage in associating the sanitary data of the OIE, in particular the official data, with non-official data issuing from the FAO's knowledge and practice in the field. Information on the animal populations, use of agricultural and pastoral land, as well as climatic data, are important strata of information that allow an integrated epidemiological approach, resulting in improved prediction and early warning methods, and consequently a better response to crises. This is an important field of collaboration between the FAO and OIE.
330. In May 2004, in applying the new general Agreement, a particular Agreement was also signed between the FAO and OIE relating to intensified monitoring and detection of transboundary diseases. This initiative, known as GF-TADs (Global Framework for the Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases), aims at sustaining approaches to regional monitoring.
331. Transboundary diseases, linked to global changes and intensified movement of animals, humans and animal products must, in fact, be controlled on a regional level, and support to ad hoc regional organisms and their Member Countries is one of the major elements of this initiative.

332. In order to be in a better position to respond to regional or international sanitary crises, which occur ever more frequently (such as the recent avian influenza crisis), the FAO set up an 'Emergency Centre for the Control of TADs' (ECTAD) in December 2004. This Centre is directed by the Head of the Animal Health Service of the FAO, officially nominated as the CVO of the FAO. The aim is to render FAO actions more efficient and transparent in the field of the control of the most contagious diseases.
333. A summary of the activities carried out with regard to the FAO-OIE collaboration in 2004 was also presented.

### Discussion

334. The Conference Chairperson thanked Dr Domenech for his comprehensive presentation and asked for comments from the floor.
335. Dr Cécile Squarzoni of PACE commented that this is a very interesting initiative and that the good relations between the OIE and FAO are clear. She then requested information on the modalities of these partnerships and wished to have further precision on the scientific support and expertise that will be made available during crises. She underlined that the national and regional networks are very important and enquired whether they will continue to be supported in the long run so that they can be strengthened and extended at the continental level.
336. Dr Domenech replied that this partnership has to date only been effectively applied in Asia within the context of the fight against avian influenza. With regard to Africa, it remains to be clarified what means and necessary methods are available to concretise this partnership.
337. The Director General confirmed that the contents of the presentation conveyed the terms of the agreement between the two organisations. It has been agreed that in emergency cases, the OIE will work hand in hand with the FAO and IBAR (PACE), for example if cases of rinderpest were to be declared. He indicated in this respect that Somalia should have its emergency plan against the disease approved, in order to benefit from the rinderpest emergency fund of 500,000 Euros managed by the OIE.
338. Dr Vallat outlined the benefits of this collaboration and referred to a project, namely an international sanitary regulation, set up by the World Health Organization (WHO) which, if adopted, would lead to the management of zoonoses (brucellosis, tuberculosis, avian influenza, anthrax, etc.) being transferred to the ministries of health. Furthermore, the norms relating to these diseases would no longer fall under the competence of the OIE. The Delegates will shortly be receiving an e-mail with proposals for the modification of the text proposed by the WHO. If the Delegates find these arguments pertinent, it would be good if they could meet with their colleagues of the health sector to present them with these points of view, thus facilitating the upcoming negotiations at the WHO.
339. Dr Domenech indicated that the FAO Director General takes the same position as that of the OIE and that he will also address a letter to the Director General of the WHO. To return to the more general issues, he specified that in-depth discussions must take place with all the partners and in particular with the IBAR, as the FAO is planning to continue its support to the control of animal diseases in Africa. He believed, however, that it is still premature to consider in detail the actions to be undertaken.
340. On a query by the Delegate of South Africa, Dr Domenech specified that in his short presentation he could not give details. He made it clear that ECTAD is a new structure, built to reorganise internally the emergency response capacities of the FAO, and apply a new chain of command.
341. The representative of Eritrea enquired about the existing links between GF-TADs and the EMPRES system. To this Dr Domenech replied that EMPRES is a permanent programme of the FAO and that this group will work within the GF-TADs concept. The representative of Eritrea then gave his view on the presentation. While appreciating the efforts being made by the FAO and OIE in assisting Veterinary Services in Africa, the latter is suffering from a chronic lack of funding. National governments are not investing adequately in Veterinary Services, as a result of which disease control, surveillance and reporting are inadequate. He urged his colleagues and the AU-IBAR to exert greater efforts to persuade the national governments to invest in Veterinary Services.

342. Dr Domenech underlined that the willingness for shared actions sustained by agreements and joint projects can only assist in mobilising the decision-makers of the countries and in convincing the donors to invest in the field of animal health. The OIE Director confirmed this position.
343. The Conference Chairperson thanked the participants for the transparent way in which they gave their points of view and wished Dr Domenech every success with his mission.

#### **Presentations by international or regional organisations**

344. The Conference Chairperson invited presentations from international and regional organisations.

#### **Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)**

345. Dr Shamseldin Mohamed Salim, Agricultural Economist of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) recalled that 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.
346. 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 the capacity of member States and provide support to relevant institutions for the 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.
347. 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.

#### **Economic Community of Cattle, Meat and Fish Resources (*Communauté économique du bétail, de la viande et des ressources halieutiques*) (CEBEVIRHA)**

348. Dr Khalidou Bouba, Director of Animal Production of the Economic Community of Cattle, Meat and Fish Resources (CEBEVIRHA), gave a brief overview of the main activities of the CEBEVIRHA, a specialist institution of the CAEMC responsible for livestock and fishery issues.
349. Producers of cattle, sheep/goats and camelidae practise transhumance in the CAEMC zone in response to unstable environmental conditions. An international transhumance certificate has been adopted to control transhumance. The future of transhumance and the risks it involves in terms of disease, pressure on grazing resources, decapitalisation, conflict with farmers, lack of access to social services, etc. are a source of concern to managers. It is, therefore, necessary to safeguard transhumance by means of watering points, transhumance trails and corridors, permanent grazing zones and training to induce stakeholders to envisage forage crops, hay preparation and storage, the stabilisation and selection of these spaces, and to adapt to environmental and social-economic change. In short, a programme is needed for the sustainable use of grazing resources and the control of transhumance.

350. With regard to the animal health situation, CEBEVIRHA is closely monitoring member countries' epidemiological surveillance programmes for controlling epizootics. It supports any endeavour to strengthen public veterinary services in the effort to improve surveillance and control of transboundary diseases, since this is the only strategy that is economically viable in the long term.

#### **Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) - United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

351. Dr Cheryl French, Assistant Regional Director – Africa, US Department of Agriculture (USDA-APHIS), Dakar, Senegal, briefly outlined the main activities of USDA-APHIS.
352. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), a regulatory and enforcement agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), has the mission of safeguarding US agriculture to ensure that the United States has safe and abundant agricultural resources. APHIS has six programme units, five domestic and one international, which are involved in accomplishing the APHIS mission.
353. APHIS' goals in order to accomplish this mission are: 1) facilitating safe agricultural trade, 2) safeguarding US plant and animal resources, and 3) ensuring effective and efficient operation of APHIS Programmes. The international unit of APHIS (International Services) has offices in over 25 countries around the world. The responsibilities of the APHIS International Services offices range from managing disease control programmes in collaboration with host countries and international institutions to working with foreign government animal health and plant health officials to facilitate agricultural trade. Recently, APHIS has increased its presence from one APHIS Attaché office in Pretoria, South Africa - which was responsible for all APHIS activities in Sub Saharan Africa - to four APHIS Attaché offices. APHIS Attaché offices are now located in Cairo, Egypt, Dakar, Senegal, and Pretoria and Cape Town, South Africa. The increased presence of APHIS Attaches will enable APHIS to better coordinate activities with the OIE and FAO, as well as the regional organisations of Africa.

#### **Endorsement of conclusions of the Seminar on the Implementation of Animal Health Standards: the Quest for Solutions, Cairo (Egypt), 11-13 October 2004**

354. The Director General proposed the endorsement of the conclusions and recommendations adopted at the Seminar. He gave a brief overview of the Seminar on the Implementation of Animal Health Standards: the Quest for Solutions, held in Cairo, Egypt (11-13 October 2004). The Declaration and Recommendations were distributed to the participants and were unanimously endorsed by the Conference ([Appendix VII](#)).

#### **Selection of Technical Items for the 17th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa**

355. It was agreed that the technical items for the 17th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa will be finalised during the OIE General Session in May 2005.
356. A representative of Sudan proposed to work on the veterinary statutory bodies in Africa. The Director General replied that this proposal could be discussed during the May meeting of the Regional Commission.

#### **Dates and venue of the 17th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa**

357. The Delegate of Eritrea informed the meeting that his country is willing to host the 17th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in February 2007. The Delegate of Chad also proposed his country for the organisation of the 17th Conference. The President of the Conference recalled that at the 15th Conference of the Regional Commission, held in Maputo (Mozambique) in February 2003, the Delegate of Eritrea, on behalf of his Government, had invited the Commission to hold the 17th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in his country in February 2007. On behalf of

the Government of his country, the Delegate of Eritrea confirmed the invitation, which was unanimously accepted by the participants. It was thus accepted that Chad would host the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in February 2009.

358. The Government of Eritrea will address an official letter to the OIE before the 73rd OIE General Session in May 2005, confirming that it would host the 17th Conference. Prior to the 73rd OIE General Session in May 2005, the Government of Chad will also confirm its invitation to host the 18th Conference of the Commission in February 2009.

### **Presentation of draft Recommendations Nos 1, 2 and 3**

359. 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 some amendments.

**Wednesday, 9 February 2005**

### **Field trip**

360. The Participants found the field trip organised by the host country to the National Museum of Khartoum, a quarantine station and export slaughterhouse, the oil standards laboratory, Giad Industrial Area, Central Veterinary Laboratory and the Department of Animal Health and Epizootic Disease Control/PACE at Soba, to be of great interest. They extended their sincere thanks to the organisers for their kind hospitality.

**Thursday, 10 February 2005**

### **Adoption of the draft Final Report and Recommendations**

361. The Conference adopted the draft Final Report and Recommendations Nos 1, 2 and 3 pending certain amendments (Appendices IV, V and VI).

### **Closing Ceremony**

362. Dr Ahmed Mustafa Hassan, Undersecretary of the Federal Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries and Sudan Delegate to the OIE, welcomed the participants and mentioned that Sudan was honoured to have hosted the 16th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa. He emphasised the need for coordination and cooperation. He indicated that a major role is expected to be played by the international and regional organisations for the welfare of the people in Africa and added that Sudan is extending its hands to all African countries. He raised his anticipation for more solid bilateral relations.
363. Dr Hassan thanked the participants for their kind response to participate in this very important conference and added that this event, which brought together over a hundred African and international Delegates will remain in the memory of the nation.
364. Dr Robert Thwala, Vice-President of the Regional Commission, read out a motion of thanks as an expression of gratitude to the Government Authorities of Sudan for their hospitality during the 16th Regional Conference of Africa (Appendix VIII).
365. On behalf of the Conference participants, Dr Daouda Bangoura, Secretary General of the Regional Commission, read out a motion of thanks and encouragement to Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE (Appendix IX).
366. Dr Sawadogo Aubin, Senior Animal Resources Officer at the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) apologised for not having been able to attend the entire conference. He then briefly outlined the livestock programmes undertaken by his organisation:



- ECOWAS livestock development policy ties in with OIE objectives and activities.
- ECOWAS supports the proposed recommendation to facilitate the operationality of 'ALIVE' programmes in Africa.
- With regard to cross-border transhumance, which is currently of major concern to communities and countries, ECOWAS recommends urgently seeking funding to carry out the programmes and projects already developed by ECOWAS.
- With regard to problems associated with low budget allocations for the livestock sector, the Livestock Ministers of ECOWAS Member States, at their second meeting in Ouagadougou in October 2004, issued a resolution to increase annual budget allocations for livestock development by 25% for a three-year period. This resolution, called the 'Ouagadougou Declaration', will be submitted to the next meeting of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government.
- Lastly, ECOWAS sent its congratulations to the Director of IBAR on his appointment and wished him every success in his new post.

367. Dr Hassan and Dr Vallat expressed their interest in these comments. Dr Hassan recalled that any comments on the part of participants can be submitted to the OIE within the next 15 days and will be included in the final report.

368. The Delegate of Swaziland indicated that the submission by Member Countries of progress reports should motivate another recommendation. He stressed the importance of assessing progress made by Member Countries since previous meetings by submitting progress reports by the OIE Regional Representation, so that he/she can make a summary report for presentation during the next OIE Regional meeting in a manner similar to the presentation of the Director General on the animal health situation of Member Countries. He added that several recommendations were taken at the last conference in Maputo, but that the progress made by Member Countries in this respect is not known. Dr Thwala commented that the recommendations of the Regional Commission conferences must not be an exercise in futility. He proposed that a recommendation be prepared on these lines, as the goal is to transform Africa's agricultural sector towards better productivity. Dr Thwala's proposal for a recommendation reads as follows:

Member Countries to submit a biennial progress report on the implementation of all recommendations of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to the OIE Regional Representation for Africa for collation, analysis and reporting to Member Countries at the next regional conference in order to monitor progress and share experiences on the sector's transformation.

369. Dr Vallat and all the participants welcomed this proposal. He added that a proposal prepared by the Regional Representation will be discussed during the next meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in May 2005 in Paris, in order to determine a formal procedure for the follow-up of the recommendations.

370. The Director General then expressed his warm thanks to the President and the Government of Sudan, the Minister of Animal Resources and Fisheries, and to Dr Ahmed Hassan, Delegate of Sudan to the OIE. He thanked the Assembly for the motion of encouragement and renewed his commitment to assist Africa and all developing countries to fully participate in OIE activities. He recalled that the OIE Regional Commission for Africa is a genuine regional organisation that must participate in the development of Africa together with other regional and sub-regional organisations.

371. Finally, the Director General expressed his thanks to the Delegate of Eritrea for offering to host the 17th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, and to the Delegate of Chad for offering to host the 18th Regional Conference of Africa.

372. Dr Hamadou Saïdou thanked His Excellency, the Minister of Animal Resources and Fisheries for having hosted the conference, as well as Dr Hassan and his team for the exemplary way in which the conference was organised.

373. Dr Hassan recalled the excellent presentations given, as well as the useful exchanges, conclusions and recommendations that were made during the Conference. He thanked the Director General of the OIE and all the countries and international organisations that participated in the Conference. Dr

Hassan expressed his satisfaction given the success of the Conference. He extended his thanks to the Government of Sudan and to the Federal Minister of Animal Resources and Fisheries for their valuable support. He also extended his special thanks to the organisers, in particular Dr Mohammed Razig Aziz and his team, for their undivided efforts in making a success of the conference. Dr Hassan thanked the Secretariat, the speakers, chairpersons, interpreters and all those who contributed to the positive outcome of the meeting.

374. Dr Ahmed Mustafa Hassan welcomed His Excellency, Brigadier Gutluak Deng Garang, Federal Minister of Animal Resources and Fisheries, and asked him to say a few words.
375. The Federal Minister welcomed the guests and expressed his personal pleasure in the scientific gathering being conducted in Sudan coinciding with the peace signing celebrations. He added that the people of Sudan and all other people in Africa will benefit from the support and strength offered by this important scientific gathering. He stressed that Sudan is ready to support all African countries and in particular its neighbours. He expressed his wish that the people of Sudan will learn and benefit a great deal from the experience and knowledge provided during this conference.
376. The Federal Minister expressed his satisfaction at the success of the conference and believed that collaboration among the countries of Africa on joint topics would thus be strengthened. He added that the outcome of this gathering will contribute positively to solve problems hindering livestock development and to create opportunities to improve disease control programmes.
377. Finally, the Federal Minister thanked all Delegates and participants for their response to attend this important regional meeting held in Khartoum, Sudan, and wished the guests a safe journey back to their countries and duty stations. He declared the 16th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa officially closed at 1.30 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 the Sudan, the Host Country of the 16th Conference of the Regional Commission, for the excellent welcome accorded to them and for all facilities made available to them during their stay in Khartoum from 7 to 10 February 2005.

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