

Reports

**of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions
held during the 85th General Session**

Paris, 22 May 2017

NOTE FROM THE HEADQUARTERS

Draft Recommendations proposed during the meetings of the Regional Commissions held during the General Session must be presented again for adoption during the next Regional Commission Conference held in the respective regions, so as to be examined and possibly adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates during the General Session that follows the Regional Conferences.

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Paris, 22 May 2017

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 22 May 2017 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 113 participants, including Delegates and observers from 37 Members of the Commission, 5 observer countries, and representatives from 9 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Congo (Rep. of the), Congo (Dem. Rep. of the), Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Observer countries: Canada, France, Italy, United States of America, and the United Kingdom.

International/regional organisations: AVA³⁴, AVSF³⁵, AU-IBAR³⁶, ECCAS³⁷, CIRAD, Euro-Arab Veterinary Association, FAO, Indian Ocean Commission, and WAEMU³⁸.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Komla Batawui (Togo), President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane (South Africa), President of the World Assembly of Delegates, and Dr Karim Tounkara, OIE Regional Representative for Africa.

Dr Komla Batawui gave a special welcome and congratulated the newly appointed OIE Delegates attending the meeting.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, including two additional presentations (from the FAO and a short intervention from Dr Mark Schipp, on behalf of the Credentials Sub-Commission), was unanimously adopted.

³⁴ AVA: African Veterinary Association

³⁵ AVSF: *Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières*

³⁶ AU-IBAR: African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

³⁷ ECCAS: Economic Community of Central African States

³⁸ WAEMU: West African Economic and Monetary Union

2. Short intervention from the OIE Council

Dr Mark Schipp, in his capacity as Member of the Credentials Sub-Commission, which was adopted by the World Assembly in the morning session, informed Delegates that, following the resolution adopted by the Assembly, those Delegates from countries with arrears of five years or more would forfeit the right to vote at the General Session and would not be eligible to receive the per diem usually allocated for participation in the General Session.

He noted that, while the OIE Basic Texts stated that countries should be ineligible to vote after two years' arrears, the Council had decided to extend the time for settling arrears to five years.

Dr Schipp invited any Delegates concerned to resolve this situation as soon as possible in order to recover their good standing and hence the right to vote in OIE elections.

Finally, making reference to future elections in the region, Dr Schipp urged the Regional Commission to propose candidates from countries in good standing.

3. OIE Regional Roadmap implementation - challenges faced by the region

Dr Moetapele Letshwenyo, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Southern Africa, on behalf of all OIE Representatives in the region, provided participants with details on the OIE Regional Roadmap, its development and the challenges faced by the region.

He began his presentation by explaining that the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan (2016-2020), approved by OIE Delegates in May 2015, had been translated into a Regional Roadmap to be implemented by Regional and Sub-Regional Representations.

He added that, based on an inclusive approach involving all stakeholders and following a review of the activities of Regional and Sub-Regional Representations and OIE Headquarters, the Regional Roadmap had been developed at the annual meeting of Regional and Sub-Regional Representations in Paris in October 2016.

Dr Letshwenyo provided details on the reasons for developing a Regional Roadmap, namely to support the OIE Headquarters Roadmap, to harmonise activities among the regions, to incorporate the specific needs of each region, and to strengthen collaboration within and between the regions and between the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, the Regional Commissions, and OIE Headquarters.

To conclude, Dr Letshwenyo said that, while fully committed to implementing the activities identified for the three strategic objectives and three cross-cutting areas, the Africa region faced many challenges, the main ones being:

- financial, relating to the low payment rate of statutory annual contributions;
- limited human resource capacity with regard to the number of specialist animal health experts, in some cases due to retirement or attrition;
- inadequate resources for the implementation of PVS Gap Analysis recommendations;
- limited availability of specialist infrastructure for animal health ; and
- inadequate coordination capacity of animal health organisations operating in Africa.

4. Outcomes of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Swakopmund, Namibia, in February 2017

Dr Komla Batawui, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of Togo, informed participants of the outcomes of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa.

Dr Batawui explained that the Conference had provided an opportunity to propose a new format for these institutional events, including a poster session, a panel discussion and working group sessions. The new dynamic was very well received by Delegates from the region and other participants.

He noted with particular concern the low level of participation from Member Countries of the region and took the opportunity to remind them that Regional Conferences were statutory events. Therefore, it is part of the OIE Delegates' obligations to attend those meetings in which issues of relevance for the region, including recommendations to be proposed for endorsement by the World Assembly of Delegates are discussed.

Dr Batawui briefly commented on the main outcomes of the Conference highlighting, among others:

- The importance for Members of the Bureaux of the Regional Commissions to clearly understand and apply their role and prerogatives as per stated in the OIE Basic Text, as well as the need for the Members of the Bureaux of the Regional Commissions to take into account that they are key actors in the work of the OIE, thus, they should act as a bridge between the OIE and the countries of the region in order to support the implementation of OIE's activities at national level, and to collaborate on the improvement of the technical and/or financial contribution of the countries to the OIE activities;
- Member Countries should enhance surveillance and control efforts and observe the principle of transparency, including timely and detailed reporting through WAHIS, in order to successfully manage diseases in the Region;
- African Delegates should continue and even improve their much appreciated written inputs in the OIE standard-setting process as well as their most valuable verbal interventions each year during the meeting of the General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates;
- Member Countries having an officially recognised status or an endorsed official control programme should provide the relevant information supporting annual reconfirmation in November each year, including any supporting information deemed necessary, as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*;
- Political will and commitment are key to support disease control and eradication. Thus, the Regional Commission for Africa should sensitise high level authorities to support Veterinary Services in preparing their official control programmes and reaching and maintaining disease free status;
- The two technical items developed during the conference – (i) “Pastoralism: opportunities for livestock and challenges for Veterinary Services” (with questionnaire) and (ii) Unfolding the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of peste des petits ruminants (PPR) in Africa” (without questionnaire) – were particularly timely themes. Recommendations will be submitted for endorsement by the World Assembly of Delegates at the 85th General Session;

- Awareness of the issue of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) was raised; countries were exhorted to consider the implementation of good farming practices as the first step to reduce the use of antimicrobial agents, without waiting for alternatives to the use of these agents, such as vaccines and probiotics, for which the development is not guaranteed;
- Participants were requested to reflect on the possible evolution of the OIE PVS Pathway. On the basis of working groups and an open discussion, they considered how to enhance the value of PVS Pathway to countries. The results of the discussions served as a cornerstone for the current debate on improving the OIE PVS Pathway, further discussed during the OIE PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum in Paris in April 2017.

5. Selection of the venue of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2019

The Delegate of Cameroon expressed the wish for his country to host the Conference.

The proposal was unanimously accepted.

The precise dates of the Conference will be soon decided between the Host Country and the OIE in order to launch the organisation of the Conference well in advance.

6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa:

- The PVS Pathway as an advocacy tool for increased investment in Veterinary Services in Africa

7. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 87th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2019

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 87th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates:

- Adoption of the ‘One Health’ approach as an unavoidable path for prevention and control of emerging and reemerging diseases

8. Proposal of a Member of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to join the OIE Council

Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane, President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates and Delegate of South Africa, reminded participants that the Delegate of Uganda had stepped down, leaving vacant his position as representative of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on the OIE Council, which required an election to be held.

He suggested Delegates to take into consideration the information provided by Dr Schipp at the beginning of the meeting regarding the countries in arrears and to keep in mind OIE Basic Text before making proposals for a Member of the Commission to join the Council.

Following a discussion involving several Delegates, Dr Kamal Tag El Sir El Sheikh, Delegate of Soudan, was unanimously proposed as Member of the OIE Council for a one-year period, until the election for the next three-year mandate of the Council, which will be held in May 2018.

This proposal will be presented to the World Assembly for endorsement.

9. Proposal of Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Africa as Vice-President and Secretary General

Dr Batawui reminded participants that the Delegate of Algeria and the Delegate of Cameroun had stepped down, leaving vacant their respective positions as Vice-President and Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, which required an election to be held.

Following a discussion involving several Delegates, the following persons were unanimously proposed, for a one-year period, until the election for the next three-year mandate of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission, which will be held in May 2018:

Vice-President: Dr Djamila Hadj Amar, Delegate of Algeria;

Secretary General: Dr Mahamat Guindé, Delegate of Chad.

These proposals will be presented to the World Assembly for endorsement.

10. Preliminary outcomes of the PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum

Dr Patrick Bastiaensen, Programme Officer, OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa, described the OIE PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum, which had been held at OIE Headquarters in Paris from 4 to 6 April 2017. He confirmed that it had clearly met its stated purpose of providing an “opportunity to work together to review and plan for the strategic evolution of the OIE PVS Pathway in improving animal health and welfare globally”, with its three days of highly successful, interactive, stimulating and productive discussion.

He explained that the 74 participants had been divided into four roughly equal-sized stakeholder groups representing: (i) Member Countries; (ii) OIE staff; (iii) PVS Pathway experts and (iv) OIE partners (including donors). Each group had focused on four or five concepts or options of greatest relevance to the group for evolving the PVS Pathway. Dr Bastiaensen gave a brief summary of the concepts that had been considered and commended the excellent feedback received from all participants on the detailed preparations, the interactive and innovative format and delivery, and the positive, open and convivial atmosphere throughout.

Dr Bastiaensen said that the report was being finalised and that outcomes would be shared with all Member Countries and interested parties, with the evolution of the OIE PVS Pathway to be rolled out intensively over the next 12 months. He added that, while the specifics would be confirmed over the coming weeks, the overall aim would be to provide OIE Member Countries, staff, experts and partners with a more tailored, flexible approach to their PVS Pathway engagement that was more responsive to their particular needs.

In conclusion, he said that such an evolution was completely appropriate, given the long standing of the PVS Pathway and its stable and robust basic tools and methods. As the great majority of countries already possess a solid baseline of PVS Pathway evaluation and planning information, more highly tailored approaches will further assist them in moving forward with the OIE to improve animal health globally.

11. Update on the activities related to the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants

Dr Jean-Jacques Soula, OIE Coordinator of the joint FAO-OIE PPR Secretariat began his presentation by underlining that peste des petits ruminants (PPR) was a devastating viral disease that had spread steadily, since it was first identified in 1942, to more than 70 countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. It has a heavy impact on the lives of some 300 million of the world’s poorest families whose livelihoods depend on sheep and goats.

The control and eventual eradication of the disease by 2030 will make a major contribution to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular ending poverty (SDG1) and ending hunger and malnutrition (SDG2).

Dr Soula added that, in April 2015, participants in an international conference held by FAO and the OIE in Abidjan, approved the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (PPR-GCES), which was endorsed by FAO and OIE member countries, in 2015 and 2016, through the supreme governing bodies of the two organisations. Accordingly, the joint FAO-OIE PPR Secretariat was established in 2016 and the PPR Regional Roadmap consultation process was conducted in 76 infected or at-risk countries, divided into nine regions.

He went on to explain that, in 2016, following an inclusive and peer-reviewed drafting process, FAO and the OIE had launched the PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR-GEP) for the period 2017-2021. It includes components on stakeholder involvement, strengthening Veterinary Services, support for diagnostic and surveillance systems, vaccination campaigns and control of other small ruminant diseases. A pledging conference will be held in the coming months in order to mobilise additional resources and plug the financial gaps with on-going projects and programmes.

Dr Soula concluded by saying that PPR-GEP was a flagship programme for FAO and OIE, as PPR eradication was linked directly to major global challenges like food and nutrition security, poverty alleviation, resilience, women's empowerment and migration control.

Dr Soula also showed a communications video on PPR eradication.

12. Overview of the financial situation of the OIE Regional and Sub Regional Representations in Africa

Dr Alain Dehove, Director of Finance of the OIE, began his presentation by reviewing the mechanism for the collection of Member Countries' statutory contributions and the portion reserved for the operation of the Regional Representations.

He explained that, in 2016, the theoretical amount of statutory contributions represented only 74% of general budget revenues for the year (€ 10.7 million). In the case of Africa, 40 countries contributed under category 6, seven under category 5, four under category 4 and two under category 3. Statutory contributions provided only 11% of the revenues of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, while 11% came from voluntary contributions from host countries, 66% from the World Fund (70% in 2015) and 12% from other voluntary contributions and other sources of revenue, totalling a budget of around EUR 6 million.

Dr Dehove went on to express concern about the annual accounts of the Regional Representation in Bamako and the Sub-Regional Representations in Gaborone and Nairobi which, in 2016, were once again in deficit.

Finally, the Director of Finance emphasised that, as the OIE's 12 Regional and Sub-Regional Representations (including four in Africa) were now recognised as a key component of the network supporting the Organisation's missions, their operation should not rely chiefly on voluntary contributions. He pointed out that this was one of the reasons that had led the Director General to request an increase in statutory contributions in 2018.

Dr Modisane exhorted Delegates to make a commitment for paying outstanding contributions. He highlighted the importance of sensitising national governments on this issue so to avoid going to the next stage which means the country being restraint of vote.

13. Update on the implementation of the Project on Strengthening Veterinary Services in Developing Countries and Rabies Control (SVSDC + Rabies)

Dr Samuel Wakhusama, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa, on behalf of all OIE Representatives in the region, gave a presentation on the implementation of the Project on Strengthening Veterinary Services in Developing Countries and Rabies Control (SVSDC + Rabies) whose ultimate goal is to make progress towards building African Veterinary Services that deliver effective governance, health safety, food security and food safety for their citizens.

He began by explaining that the SVSDC project, funded by the European Union, had two components and five result areas and had been signed on 24 December 2015, under a direct management grant contract of the European Union (EU), for an implementation period of 36 months.

Dr Wakhusama summarised the components and results as follows.

Component 1: Strengthening Veterinary Services

- Result 1: Enhance the legislative framework of African Veterinary Services through the implementation of regional seminars. Five seminars for OIE national focal points have been held.
- Result 2: Gradually bring national Veterinary Services up to the standards of the OIE through the implementation of OIE PVS Pathway missions and of their recommendations. Twelve PVS Pathway missions have been scheduled for the entire period of the project. For the time being, all upcoming missions are funded through the Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa (VET-GOV) programme to maximise expenditure before the programme ends in July 2017.
- Result 3: Develop a PVS Pathway-based tool to enable Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to exploit data from national PVS Pathway missions conducted in their Member States to develop, for instance, regional investment plans. Development of a PVS Pathway-based tool is underway. The database will serve as an internal tool to consolidate data contained in OIE PVS Pathway mission reports and will facilitate the follow-up of country progress.

Component 2: Rabies control

- Result 4: At the national level, support the implementation of the national Strategic Plan to eliminate human rabies in Kenya, in collaboration with relevant partners. In August 2016, the National and County Rabies Elimination Coordination Committees (NRECC & CRECC) were launched and a rabies website was established. In addition, a toll-free line for reporting dog bites was commissioned in Western Kenya and a total of 200,000 doses of rabies vaccine were delivered to Kenya from the OIE Regional Rabies Vaccine Bank.
- Result 5: At the regional level, set up an OIE Regional Vaccine Bank for canine rabies in Africa and provide technical expertise for the development and implementation of regional strategies (in North Africa). Following the establishment of an OIE Regional Rabies Vaccines Bank, a total of 200,000 vaccine doses were sent to Tunisia, after which a vaccination campaign was launched. Workshops have been also planned to train vaccinator teams in dog handling and dog vaccination in the field.

The project has developed an array of project visibility materials.

Mirroring the activities carried out in Kenya and Northern Africa, in 2015 the OIE, with funding from the Federal Government of Germany, launched a project entitled “Technical Support for Namibia in Eliminating Rabies in Dogs” to undertake vaccination campaigns against dog-mediated human rabies in Northern Communal Areas (NCA). The project, managed by the OIE, has overseen the vaccination of 30,000 dogs, in addition to a campaign to enhance awareness of dog-mediated human rabies among 42,000 children in 119 schools from 11 constituencies in the Oshana region. The project, now in its second phase, starting on 6 April 2017, will run until May 2018 and will receive a total of 150,000 vaccine doses from the OIE Rabies Vaccines Bank.

14. Proposal for designation of a new OIE Collaborating Centre for Bee Health in Africa

Dr Kisa Juma Ngeiywa, Delegate of Kenya, presented the Regional Commission with an application for the OIE to consider the “International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE)” as an “OIE Collaborating Centre for Bee Health in Africa”.

He provided a brief review of the centre and its activities and said that full details could be found in the working document of the meeting.

The Commission approved Kenya’s proposal.

15. Presentations by International and Regional Organisations

Indian Ocean Commission

Mr Hamada Madi, Secretary General of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) gave a brief overview of the IOC, which has just signed an agreement with the OIE to establish cooperation in the fields of animal health and veterinary public health. He pointed out that the IOC was the only regional organisation in Africa composed entirely of islands. Its members are: Union of the Comoros, France on behalf of Réunion, Republic of Madagascar, Republic of Mauritius and Republic of Seychelles.

The Secretary General explained that the IOC disease monitoring project had sprung from a crisis that had never been forgotten: the chikungunya epidemic of 2006, which had caused real turmoil in the islands. In response, IOC members decided to take collective action to prevent and manage animal health crises more effectively. It led the IOC, with the support of the French Development Agency (AFD), to launch an Epidemiological Surveillance and Alert Management (SEGA) Network in 2009.

He went on to give a detailed explanation of the SEGA network, saying that it acted as a real watchdog. With more than 250 human and animal health professionals, it constantly monitored health, facilitated the exchange of information, helped to build human and material capacity, mobilised expertise in a crisis and, most important of all, took holistic action by linking human and animal health.

The Secretary General concluded by saying that proof of the practical value of the SEGA network was a charter signed by IOC members to ensure its sustainability.

African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)

Professor Ahmed El Sawalhy, Director of the African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), began his presentation by informing participants that, since June 2016, AU-IBAR had continued to carry out interventions in partnership with member states, RECs, the African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC), the African Union, the OIE, FAO, national and international research institutions, academic institutions, national, regional and continental organisations of farmers and other stakeholder and non-governmental organisations.

He provided brief details on the different activities carried out by AU-IBAR highlighting, in particular, the implementation of the project on “Sustainable development of livestock for livelihoods in Africa” (Live2Africa) in support of the AU Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA), supporting member states in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) in developing and validating their national livestock policies. In the area of advocacy, AU-IBAR engaged Pan African parliamentarians and built their capacity on sanitary and phytosanitary standards.

With regard to animal welfare, he said that, since 2015, AU-IBAR had been supporting the development of an African Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) and an action plan to be submitted to AU member states and RECs for validation, as well as for the establishment of an African Platform for Animal Welfare (APAW).

Prof. Elsalwaly reported that, under the VET-GOV programme, AU-IBAR, in collaboration with the OIE and FAO, continued to support AU member states and RECs in developing national livestock policies. AU-IBAR is also a member of the FAO/OIE ad hoc group on an international preparedness plan for rinderpest.

He added that the AU-IBAR Standards and Trade Secretariat, designed to sustain the building of common African positions on international standards for animal health and food safety, was up and running.

The AU-IBAR Director concluded by informing participants that a revised draft Pan-African PPR Programme (2017-2021) had been developed to initiate the implementation of the Pan-African PPR strategy, aligned with the Global PPR Programme developed in 2016 by the FAO-OIE Global PPR Secretariat.

West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)

Dr Soumana Diallo, Representative of the WAEMU Commission, reported that, in connection with implementing the WAEMU Agricultural Policy, the WAEMU Commission had embarked on a number of reforms in the field of animal health, including zoonoses and food safety.

He explained that the reforms were aimed, first and foremost, at harmonising veterinary pharmaceutical legislation. The second area of reform is to build the capacity of Veterinary Services through the adoption of a WAEMU strategic plan to strengthen the Veterinary Services of Member States. In that regards, he referred to activities done in collaboration with the OIE, including among others, OIE PVS Evaluation and OIE PVS Gap Analysis missions as well as round tables to find potential donors for WAEMU members.

He then referred to the reform related to the safety of animals and animal-derived foodstuffs thanks to which a regional scientific committee to assess food safety risks and to provide scientific advice was established.

Dr Diallo went on to discuss the reform of support projects for the control and eradication of animal diseases. Through the Regional Fund for Agricultural Development (RFAD), the WAEMU Commission supports its Member States in controlling certain animal diseases, such as anthrax, Newcastle disease and rabies. With OIE support, it has also developed two studies to devise a regional strategy and coordinated national control programmes for CBPP and Newcastle disease.

Lastly, he reported on the adoption of a directive guaranteeing and organising the freedom of movement and right of establishment within WAEMU of veterinarians who are nationals of another WAEMU Member State, and establishing a College of Presidents of national orders of Veterinary Doctors that henceforth will be responsible for regulating veterinary practice within the WAEMU area.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Dr Berhanu Bedane, Animal Production and Health Officer from the FAO Regional Office for Africa, provided participants with brief details regarding FAO programmes and projects that contribute to the vision of eradicating hunger and malnutrition and eliminating poverty.

He highlighted the fact that, in Africa, all FAO programmes and projects were aligned with global priorities (Sustainable Development Goals) and continental priorities (Agenda 2063 and Malabo Declaration on Agriculture and Post-harvest Losses).

Dr Bedane noted that FAO's presence on the ground, through its country representations, allowed the organisation to deliver immediate support to all its Member States

Regarding progress made in Africa during the reporting period, Dr Bedane pointed to the: preparations for global control and eradication of peste des petits ruminants; progressive control of foot and mouth disease, tsetse and trypanosomosis; prevention and control of highly pathogenic avian influenza; introduction of modern technology in real-time disease reporting; promotion of the One Health concept; and management of emergency disease outbreaks.

The meeting officially ended at 6:20 p.m.

.../Appendix

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda;
2. Short intervention from the OIE Council;
3. OIE Regional Roadmap implementation - challenges faced by the region;
4. Outcomes of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Swakopmund, Namibia, in February 2017;
5. Selection of the venue of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2019;
6. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa;
7. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 87th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2019;
8. Proposal of a Member of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to join the OIE Council;
9. Proposal of Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Africa as Vice-President and Secretary General;
10. Preliminary outcomes of the PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum;
11. Update on the activities related to the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants;
12. Overview of the financial situation of the OIE Regional and Sub Regional Representations in Africa;
13. Update on the implementation of the Project on Strengthening Veterinary Services in Developing Countries and Rabies Control (SVSDC + Rabies);
14. Proposal for designation of a new OIE Collaborating Centre for Bee Health in Africa;
15. Presentations by International and Regional Organisations:
 - *Indian Ocean Commission;*
 - *African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR);*
 - *West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU);*
 - *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

Paris, 22 May 2017

The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas met on 22 May 2017 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 93 participants, including Delegates and observers from 21 Members of the Commission and representatives from 10 International or Regional Organisations:

Members of the Commission: Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Rep., Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, and Uruguay.

International/Regional Organisations: ALA³⁹, CARICOM⁴⁰, CVP⁴¹, FAO, GFSI⁴², IEC⁴³, IICA⁴⁴, OIRSA⁴⁵, PAHO-PANAFTOSA⁴⁶, and WTO.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques, Delegate of Brazil and President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, seconded by Dr Luis Osvaldo Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

At the proposal of Delegates, two items were added: one concerning the proposed 20% increase in annual contributions as from 2018 and the other on the procedure for selecting and nominating experts for the election of OIE Specialist Commissions.

The Agenda was adopted unanimously as described in the Appendix.

2. Proposed increase in annual contributions for 2018

Dr Alain Dehove, OIE Director of Finance, explained the basis of the proposal to increase the amount of annual contributions by 20% as from 2018, which had been submitted for adoption at the current General Session. He detailed the management improvements made by the OIE and the Organisation's operational constraints that could be resolved through increased contributions.

³⁹ ALA: American Poultry Association

⁴⁰ CARICOM: Caribbean Community

⁴¹ CVP: Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone

⁴² GFSI: Global Food Safety Initiative

⁴³ IEC: International Egg Commission

⁴⁴ IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

⁴⁵ OIRSA: Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria

⁴⁶ PAHO: Pan American Health Organization - PANAFTOSA: Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center

This proposal includes improvements in the operation of both OIE Headquarters and Regional Representations, as well as in *ad hoc* group meetings and the implementation of the many actions that the OIE has included in its Sixth Strategic Plan.

3. Procedure for selecting and nominating experts for the election of OIE Specialist Commissions

Ms Ann Backhouse, Head of the OIE Standards Department, responded to the concerns raised by Delegates regarding the proposed procedure for adoption. She explained that it was planned to keep the details of any experts who were not selected and that regional balance in the selection of nominated experts would be ensured. Finally she described the schedule of actions for compliance with this procedure.

4. OIE Regional Roadmap implementation - challenges faced by the region

Dr Luis O. Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, presented the activities for the Regional Roadmap of the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan (2016-2020) and provided details on the actions of the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations for the three strategic objectives and three cross-cutting areas of the Plan.

With regard to Strategic Objective 1 “Securing animal health and welfare by appropriate risk management”, Dr Barcos described the actions carried out by the regional and sub-regional offices in support of the OIE mandate, in particular the latest online meeting held in December 2016 to discuss standards under review in which 20 countries had participated, thanks to the development of a tutorial for the WebEx platform. He said that the objective had been for Delegates to reach agreement on the chapters under review. Dr Barcos highlighted the support provided by Canada and a group of Delegates that had worked to compile the proposed comments.

With respect to official recognition of countries’ animal disease status, the Regional Representative mentioned the support provided to the Status Department to ensure the timely submission of annual reconfirmations and the support provided to Member Countries.

Referring to the coordination of disease control and eradication, he described actions to support control plans for foot and mouth disease and classical swine fever and to support the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for the Americas, highlighting the revision of the list of priority diseases.

On the subject of antimicrobial resistance, he welcomed the increase in the number of replies to the questionnaire on antimicrobial use, as compared with the previous year, acknowledging that this had been due to both country efforts and follow-up work by the regional and sub-regional offices, including online meetings and customised tutorials. He recommended that Veterinary Services make resources available to facilitate responding to questionnaires, as this would be an annual task. He also pointed out that the OIE Strategy required countries to develop their National Plans in line with the OIE Strategy and in a “One Health” spirit. Lastly, he stressed the importance of private-sector participation in this process through the Committee of the Americas for Veterinary Medicines (CAMEVET), for example.

In connection with animal welfare, Dr Barcos confirmed the continued applicability of the Regional Strategy and highlighted the work initiated jointly with the Collaborating Centre and OIE Headquarters to develop the Action Plan.

With regard to Strategic Objective 2, “Establishing trust through transparency and communication”, Dr Barcos described the mandate for continuously improving the transparency of disease reporting and requested Delegates to continue to play an active part on this important activity. He noted that transparency also included publicising the results of OIE PVS Pathway missions.

On the subject of communication, he commented on the duties of the recently created post of Regional Communication Correspondent and on the redesign of the regional website, which would be launched at a later date. He also commented on the development and dissemination of communication materials and on the need to broaden their reach to all stakeholders.

With regard to Strategic Objective 3, “Ensuring the capacity and sustainability of Veterinary Services”, the Regional Representative referred to the OIE mandate for strengthening Veterinary Services through the PVS Pathway. He stressed the need for Member Countries to make progress in all stages of the PVS Pathway, including through PVS Evaluation Follow-up missions, and to consider formally integrating the OIE PVS Pathway into national strategic planning.

Dr Barcos mentioned support for the OIE Twinning Programme, inviting Delegates to take advantage of this tool. He also detailed the need to extend OIE actions to Veterinary Education Establishments and Veterinary Statutory Bodies.

Dr Barcos made the following comments on the cross-cutting areas.

With regard to Cross-cutting Area A, “Scientific excellence”, he said that coordinated actions within the Tripartite Agreement between the OIE, FAO and World Health Organization (WHO) needed to be promoted in countries.

With regard to Cross-cutting Area B, “Diversity, inclusiveness, engagement, transparency”, he highlighted the commitment to promote the participation of all Member Countries in the region in the Specialist Commissions, Regional Commission and OIE Council.

With regard to Cross-cutting Area C, “Governance”, he provided details on actions to support the Regional Commission, including the preparation of the Conferences of the OIE Regional Commission.

On the subject of partnerships, he provided details on links with other organisations, highlighting the future joint meeting with the World Customs Organization and GF-TADs activities, and mentioned relations with other OIE Regional Commissions. He also referred to on-going linkages with Veterinary Education Establishments and Veterinary Statutory Bodies. Finally, he pointed to partnerships with the different private sector’s actors.

Dr Barcos concluded by stressing the importance of paying annual contributions to the OIE to enable it to carry out its activities. He also discussed the opportunity to send Veterinary Service staff to work in Regional and Sub-Regional Representations.

5. Report on OIE Council meetings

Dr Joaquín Braulio Delgadillo Álvarez, Member of the OIE Council and Delegate of Mexico, began his presentation by informing the Delegates that the OIE Council had met three times since the last General Session. The meetings were held in September 2016 and in February and May 2017, and addressed issues of strategic importance to the OIE, including administrative matters, some of which will be presented at the 85th General Session. He reminded Delegates that the summary of the Council minutes were available on the Delegates website.

Dr Delgadillo Álvarez summarised the most important issues discussed by the Council at the above meetings, some of which were as follows:

- A detailed assessment was made of the 84th OIE General Session with a view to making improvements to the 85th General Session;
- The Council suggested applying an increase of 20% to Member Countries' annual contributions to the OIE, to be submitted for approval at the 85th General Session;
- As the next elections of experts for the Specialist Commissions will be held in 2018, the procedure for their nomination by Member Countries was discussed;
- An evaluation was made of the proposals to be submitted for approval by the World Assembly of Delegates regarding new Collaborating Centres and cooperation agreements to be signed;
- The Council expressed the wish to provide the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations with long-term financial stability. It also mentioned the need to analyse the choice and number of regional and sub-regional offices, using well-defined criteria;
- It was explained that two new Members of the Council would be elected at the current General Session: one for the Africa Region and the other for the Asia, Far East and Oceania Region.

With regard to preparing the 85th General Session, Dr Delgadillo Álvarez said that the Council had considered the Director General's proposals for preparing the General Session and had reviewed the nominations for awards in the Gold and Merit categories. The Council also approved the annual report on OIE activities in 2016 presented by the Director General, prior to its adoption by the Assembly.

To conclude, Dr Hugo Federico Idoyaga Benítez, Member of the OIE Council and Delegate of Paraguay stressed the importance of the online meetings held with Delegates of Member Countries in the Americas prior to and after each Council meeting. These online meetings, in which there was a high attendance rate from the region, keep countries informed about Council activities and discussions. He also encouraged those present to continue to take part in such meetings. He cited as an example proposals received at online meetings that had been submitted to the Council.

Lastly, Dr Idoyaga Benítez took the opportunity to say once again that the Members of both the Council and the Bureau represented all Member Countries in the Americas region and would be happy to answer any queries or provide any support they might require.

6. Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, including the outcomes of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, from 14 to 18 November 2016

Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques, President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of Brazil, began his presentation by describing the composition of the Bureau, elected in May 2015 at the General Session, which currently had two positions vacant (Vice-President and Secretary General) to be filled at the current General Session.

Dr Figueiredo Marques detailed actions to encourage the active participation of Member Countries in the region in the comment-submission process for OIE standards under review. He pointed to the face-to-face meeting held in November 2016, prior to the Regional Conference, to discuss and reach consensus on the standards under review, as well as the online meeting of December 2016, pointing to the high attendance rate and the need to make further progress in this area.

Referring to the outcomes of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, Dr Figueiredo Marques explained that the main aim of the recommendation for Member Countries arising from Technical Item I (with questionnaire), entitled “*Implementation and maintenance of animal traceability in the Americas: overview of current status and impact for international trade*”, was for Member Countries in the Americas to extend the application of OIE standards on animal traceability, using them as a basis for developing or improving their own systems and applying them to import and export systems. The resulting application of traceability standards in national legislation will support disease control and surveillance activities.

The recommendation for the OIE was that it continue to promote the use of its traceability standards in line with the OIE PVS Pathway, as a means for improving Veterinary Services, including identification and traceability.

With regard to Technical Item II (without questionnaire), entitled “*Highly pathogenic avian influenza: challenges encountered and measures for preventing its spread*”, Member Countries were recommended to: conduct active surveillance in wild birds in order to track and monitor the avian influenza virus in this population; develop contingency plans that include the activities required to control this disease; and promote the implementation of biosecurity measures that are in line with the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

With regard to the additional technical item entitled “*Depopulation and/or movement of animal populations during animal health emergencies and natural disasters: experience in the region*”, it was agreed that resilience to natural disasters and animal health contingencies was achieved by integrating Veterinary Services’ disaster reduction and management plans into national platforms.

It was also recommended that the OIE organise joint seminars for National Focal Points for wildlife, animal disease notification and laboratories in order to foster nationwide synergies in the notification of diseases affecting wildlife, as is the case with avian influenza.

Finally, Dr Figueiredo Marques reported that, as in previous years, on Sunday 21 May a meeting of Delegates of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas had been held to discuss standards under review and to adopt common positions for the region.

Dr Figueiredo Marques described participation in meetings of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for the Americas and in the CAMEVET seminar, highlighting CAMEVET support for the OIE’s work on antimicrobial resistance.

The President of the Regional Commission concluded by thanking the staff of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America for its work in support of all Member Countries in the region.

7. Confirmation of the venue of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in November 2018

Dr Nimia Lissette Gómez Rodríguez, OIE Delegate of Dominican Republic, reiterated her country’s offer to host the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas. The Conference will be held tentatively in Punta Cana (Dominican Republic) in November 2018.

8. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 87th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2019

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 87th General Session:

- Implementation of zoning and compartmentalisation in disease control and the maintenance of safe trade

9. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas:

- Role of private veterinarians in official Veterinary Service programmes: mechanisms for interaction, accreditation and quality control in a globalised world

10. Proposal of Members of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission for the Americas as Vice-President and Secretary General

Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques first reminded participants that the Delegates of Guatemala and Canada had stepped down, leaving vacant their respective positions as Vice-President and Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, which required an election to be held.

Following a discussion involving several Delegates, the following persons were unanimously proposed, for a one-year period, until the election for the next three-year mandate of the Bureau of the OIE Regional, which will be held in May 2018:

Vice-President: Dr Bernardo Jaén Hernández, Delegate of Costa Rica;

Secretary General: Dr Harpreet Kochhar, Delegate of Canada.

This proposal will be presented to the World Assembly for endorsement.

11. Request of Curacao to become an OIE Member Country

Dr Guilherme H. Figueiredo Marques informed participants of an application by the Kingdom of the Netherlands for the accession of Curacao as an OIE Member Country, which had been approved by the Council and would be submitted to the World Assembly of Delegates for approval. He added that this was in line with the objective of increasing the number of Caribbean Members of the OIE.

12. Preliminary outcomes of the PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum

Dr François Caya, Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, described the OIE PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum, which had been held at OIE Headquarters in Paris from 4 to 6 April 2017. He confirmed that it had clearly met its stated purpose of providing an “opportunity to work together to review and plan for the strategic evolution of the OIE PVS Pathway in improving animal health and welfare globally”, with its three days of highly successful, interactive, stimulating and productive discussion.

He explained that the 74 participants had been divided into four roughly equal-sized stakeholder groups representing: (i) Member Countries; (ii) OIE staff; (iii) PVS Pathway experts and (iv) OIE partners (including donors). Each group had focused on four or five

concepts or options of greatest relevance to the group for evolving the PVS Pathway. Dr Caya gave a brief summary of the concepts that had been considered and commended the excellent feedback received from all participants on the detailed preparations, the interactive and innovative format and delivery, and the positive, open and convivial atmosphere throughout.

Dr Caya said that the report was being finalised and that outcomes would be shared with all Member Countries and interested parties, with the evolution of the OIE PVS Pathway to be rolled out intensively over the next 12 months. He added that, while the specifics would be confirmed over the coming weeks, the overall aim would be to provide OIE Member Countries, staff, experts and partners with a more tailored, flexible approach to their PVS Pathway engagement that was more responsive to their particular needs.

In conclusion, he said that such an evolution was completely appropriate, given the long standing of the PVS Pathway and its stable and robust basic tools and methods. As the great majority of countries already possess a solid baseline of PVS Pathway evaluation and planning information, more highly tailored approaches will further assist them in moving forward with the OIE to improve animal health globally.

13. Status of notifications by Members in the Americas

Dr Paula Cáceres Soto, Head of the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, gave a brief update on the status of notifications by Members in the region as of 18 May 2017.

She began by providing detailed regional indicators on compliance with reporting in 2016. Based on an analysis of the indicators for reports received for 2016, Dr Cáceres Soto confirmed the great commitment Members had shown to disease reporting and to compliance with notification requirements.

Dr Cáceres Soto also gave an overview of some of the elements of tracking events not notified to the OIE and encouraged Members to provide feedback to clarify the situation when requests had been made.

To conclude, Dr Cáceres Soto asked for support from the region to recommend one animal disease notification focal point from the region to join the Technical Advisory Committee, which is one of the governance bodies of the WAHIS+ renovation project.

14. OIE relevant standards to be adopted during the General Session – Regional approach

It was explained that a number of meetings had been held ahead of the 85th General Session: an online meeting in December 2016 and two face-to-face meetings, in November 2016 and May 2017.

The Delegates of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas reviewed the various items proposed for adoption at the 85th General Session. This involved the selection of items relevant to the region, including the: criteria for assessing the safety of commodities; chapters on porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome; African swine fever and classical swine fever with regard to the definition of pig categories; support for furthering the work on glanders; welfare of working equids; prevention and control of Salmonella in commercial pig production systems; and updating of criteria for the official recognition of disease status for bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

15. Presentations from international and regional organisations

Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

Dr Gavin Peters, Animal Health Specialist at the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), presented CARICOM and the objectives and missions of CAHFSA and its relationship with the OIE. He went on to list and detail the animal health

activities on which CAHFSA was currently working. He concluded by referring to the accession of Caribbean Islands to the OIE.

Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP)

Dr Jorge Berrios, representing the CVP, began by presenting the current status of OIE PVS Pathway missions in Member Countries of the Americas. He then detailed the missions conducted in CVP member countries and presented a comparative analysis of the result relating to the chapter on access to markets. Dr Suárez Hurtado concluded by encouraging those present to request PVS Evaluation Follow-up missions to the OIE.

International Regional Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (OIRSA)

Dr Efraín Medina Guerra, OIRSA Executive Director, listed the actions undertaken by OIRSA in 2016: a laboratory test accreditation project conducted jointly with the OIE; support for screwworm and foot and mouth disease surveillance; control and eradication of classical swine fever in Guatemala; and sampling for avian influenza. To conclude, he announced that a workshop for OIRSA member countries on legislation and biological threat reduction would be held jointly with the OIE in Panama in June 2017.

Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center of the World Health Organization's Pan American Health Organization (PANAFTOSA PAHO/WHO)

Dr Ottorino Cosivi, Director of PANAFTOSA PAHO/WHO, described the outcomes of the 44th meeting of the South American Committee for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease (COSALFA) and the Pre-COSALFA Seminar. This included the final stages of the Hemispheric Plan for the Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease (PHEFA) and the risk analysis for serotypes A, O and C. He also described the establishment of a regional antigen and vaccine bank and the biosecurity guidelines in accordance with the current stage of eradication. He concluded by highlighting collaboration with other organisations.

The meeting officially ended at 6:40 p.m.

.../Appendix

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda;
2. Proposed increase in annual contributions for 2018;
3. Procedure for selecting and nominating experts for the election of OIE Specialist Commissions;
4. OIE Regional Roadmap implementation - challenges faced by the region;
5. Report on OIE Council meetings;
6. Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, including the outcomes of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, from 14 to 18 November 2016;
7. Confirmation of the venue of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in November 2018;
8. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 87th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2019;
9. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas;
10. Proposal of Members of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission for the Americas as Vice-President and Secretary General;
11. Request of Curacao to become an OIE Member Country;
12. Preliminary outcomes of the PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum;
13. Status of notifications by Members in the Americas;
14. OIE relevant standards to be adopted during the General Session – Regional approach;
15. Presentations from international and regional organisations:
 - *Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center of the World Health Organization's Pan American Health Organization (PANAFTOSA PAHO/WHO);*
 - *International Regional Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (OIRSA);*
 - *Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP);*
 - *Caribbean Community (CARICOM)*

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

Paris, 22 May 2017

The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met on 22 May 2017 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 108 participants, including Delegates and observers from 23 Members of the Commission and 2 observer countries/territories and representatives from 5 international organisations:

Members of the Commission: Australia, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (People's Rep. of ~), Chinese Taipei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea (Rep. of ~), Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Observer countries/territories: France and Hong Kong SAR.

International/regional organisations: FAO, Humane Society International, International Veterinary Student's Association, NACA⁴⁷, and the World Bank.

Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, Delegate of the People's Republic of China and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of regional and international organisations and introduced the Members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

2. OIE Regional Roadmap implementation - challenges faced by the region

Dr Hirofumi Kugita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, gave a presentation about the OIE Regional Roadmap, which had been developed in accordance with the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan.

He explained that the OIE Regional Roadmap aimed to: support the OIE Headquarters Roadmap; better harmonise activities among the regions; remain flexible in order to be able to incorporate the specific needs of each region; and strengthen collaboration within and between regions and between the OIE Regional/Sub-Regional Representations and OIE Headquarters.

⁴⁷ NACA: Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific

Finally, Dr Kugita mentioned several specific challenges for the region, such as furthering coordination between the South-East Asia and China Foot and Mouth Disease (SEACFMD) 2020 Roadmap and the Roadmap for Foot and Mouth Disease Control in East Asia under the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) mechanism.

After the Annual Meeting of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations in October, further details will be provided at the Regional Conference in Malaysia in November.

3. Report from OIE Council meetings

Dr Mark Schipp, Vice-President of the Council and OIE Delegate for Australia, reported on OIE Council activities for the past year. He reminded Delegates that they could find summaries of each Council meeting on the OIE website via the secure Delegates' site.

He then explained that elections would be held at the 85th General Session to fill a number of vacancies for the one-year period until the 2018 general elections. In the Asia, Far East and Oceania region, elections will be held to fill one vacancy on the Council and two vacancies on the Bureau of the Regional Commission (Vice-President and Secretary-General).

Finally, Dr Schipp spoke of the financial situation in the OIE, measures to reduce costs and the proposal to increase statutory contributions.

4. Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and Delegate of the People's Republic of China, gave a presentation on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania.

Dr Zhang began by explaining to Delegates the current composition of the Regional Core Group, which had been established pursuant to the Regional Work Plan Framework: namely the Members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission and Members of the OIE Council from the region. Regrettably, three members of the Group (Dr Keshav Prasad Premy, Vice-President of the Commission; Dr Matthew Stone, Secretary General of the Commission; and Dr Toshiro Kawashima, member of the OIE Council) had resigned their posts as OIE Delegates after the 84th General Session, which had left vacancies in the Group. He reminded Delegates that the election to fill the vacancies would take place during the current General Session.

Dr Zhang gave information on disease reporting in the region, particularly aquatic, and called for an improvement of notification to the OIE.

He stressed the importance of having regional representation of experts in the OIE *ad hoc* groups and Specialist Commissions.

Second, Dr Zhang emphasised that the current situation regarding transboundary animal diseases in the region, including foot and mouth disease, highly pathogenic avian influenza and peste des petits ruminants, was serious and that Member Countries in the region needed to continue cooperation to control these diseases. He briefed them on the 9th Regional Steering Committee Meeting of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific, held in Tokyo on 20-21 July 2016, in which he had participated as President of the Regional Commission and as the Chairperson.

Third, Dr Zhang said that the development of the Coordination Procedure for Developing Regional Positions for the OIE General Session had been initiated, in accordance with the Regional Work Plan Framework 2016-2020. The procedure had been provisionally agreed by Member Countries in the region and would be discussed and formally approved by them at the current meeting.

Finally, Dr Zhang encouraged Member Countries in the region to participate in the teleconferences of the Regional Commission, which were held after OIE Council meetings to share information about issues raised by the Council, saying that they took place via the Regional Delegates' Secure Access System, which had been established to facilitate their engagement in the OIE standard-setting and updating process.

Dr Zhang discussed PVS Pathway tools and encouraged Members to take advantage of this OIE programme.

5. Organisation of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in Malaysia, in November 2017

Dr Quaza Nizamuddin Bin Hassan Nizam, OIE Delegate of Malaysia, confirmed that his country was willing and honoured to hold this important regional event and invited all Delegates to attend the conference. The proposed city is Putrajaya, the administrative capital of Malaysia.

He gave a brief account of the various arrangements that Malaysia had made to start organising the conference. Dr Quaza Nizamuddin Bin Hassan Nizam provided general information about visa issuance, hotel accommodation and transport, giving assurances that full details would be sent to participants in a timely manner.

6. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (without questionnaire) for inclusion in the agenda of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania:

- Surveillance and risk mitigation measures for illegal and unregulated movement of animals across borders or through markets

7. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 87th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2019

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 87th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates:

- One Health approaches to surveillance and effective animal movement control to prevent the spread of transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses

8. Proposal of a Member of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to join the OIE Council

Dr Mark Schipp reminded participants that the Delegate of Japan had stepped down, leaving vacant his position as representative of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on the OIE Council, which required an election to be held.

Following a discussion involving several Delegates, Dr Sen Sovann, Delegate of Cambodia, was unanimously proposed as Member of the OIE Council for a one-year period, until the election for the next three-year mandate of the Council, which will be held in May 2018.

This proposal will be presented to the World Assembly for endorsement.

9. Proposal of Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania as Vice-President and Secretary General

Dr Zhang Zhongqiu reminded participants that Delegates of Nepal and New Zealand had stepped down, leaving vacant their respective positions as Vice-President and Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, which required an election to be held.

As Dr Sen Sovann is currently a Vice-President of the Regional Commission, if he takes up a Council position this opens up two Vice-President positions.

Following a discussion involving several Delegates, the following persons were unanimously proposed, for a one-year period, until the election for the next three-year mandate of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission, which will be held in May 2018:

Vice-President: Dr Tashi Samdup, Delegate of Bhutan;

Vice-President: Dr Kazuo Ito, Delegate of Japan;

Secretary General: Dr Him Hoo Yap, Delegate of Singapore.

These proposals will be presented to the World Assembly for endorsement.

10. Process for election to Specialist Commissions

Dr Mark Schipp stressed the importance of the Specialist Commissions, saying that they played a key role in the OIE's mandate for international standard-setting and official recognition of animal disease status, making it vital to have highly effective Specialist Commissions. To this end, he explained to the Regional Commission the proposal for elections to the OIE Specialist Commissions, to be submitted for the approval of the Assembly at the 85th General Session. Dr Schipp said that the new selection process had been developed with a view to achieving a better and fairer selection of experts, aligning the selection process with the objectives of the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan and assessing the credentials of experts more fully. He added that it was a transparent process, with clear criteria for candidates, a clearly established timetable for nominations and an effective management process.

Dr Zhang suggested it could be possible to use electronic platform and ensure the Regional Commission can draw from the expertise in the region. He also raised the issue of language making it difficult for experts in the region needing fluency in English. This may limit the pool of experts.

Dr Schipp acknowledged these comments and suggested Dr Sen Sovann as new Council member could take these comments on behalf of the region.

11. Discussion and Approval of the Coordination Procedure for Developing Regional Positions for the OIE General Session

Dr Zhang Zhongqiu invited Dr Kugita to give a presentation on the Coordination Procedure for Developing Regional Positions for the OIE General Session, for formal approval by Member Countries in the region.

He said that the procedure was developed in accordance with the Regional Work Plan Framework 2016-2017 to develop a regional position for all Member Countries of region concerning the *Codes* and *Manuals* and work programmes of the OIE Specialist Commissions, which would be stated during plenary discussions of the OIE General Session.

Dr Kugita emphasised that the procedure had already been provisionally agreed by Member Countries in the region on an email basis. He reported that, by January 2017, the draft was circulated twice among Member Countries in the region for comment, with no objections.

He explained the procedure and concluded his presentation by requesting Member Countries in the region to approve the procedure unanimously.

After discussion among Delegates, Dr Zhang interjected to suggest adoption of the procedure today and let it work for some time and, if it needs improvement, to reconsider it.

Several Delegates raised issues for consideration at this General Session, but there was not enough time to reach a consensus.

12. Preliminary outcomes of the PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum

Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asia, described the OIE PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum, which had been held at OIE Headquarters in Paris from 4 to 6 April 2017. He confirmed that it had clearly met its stated purpose of providing an “opportunity to work together to review and plan for the strategic evolution of the OIE PVS Pathway in improving animal health and welfare globally”, with its three days of highly successful, interactive, stimulating and productive discussion.

He explained that the 74 participants had been divided into four roughly equal-sized stakeholder groups representing: (i) Member Countries; (ii) OIE staff; (iii) PVS Pathway experts and (iv) OIE partners (including donors). Each group had focused on four or five concepts or options of greatest relevance to the group for evolving the PVS Pathway. Dr Abila gave a brief summary of the concepts that had been considered and commended the excellent feedback received from all participants on the detailed preparations, the interactive and innovative format and delivery, and the positive, open and convivial atmosphere throughout.

Dr Abila said that the report was being finalised and that outcomes would be shared with all Member Countries and interested parties, with the evolution of the OIE PVS Pathway to be rolled out intensively over the next 12 months. He added that, while the specifics would be confirmed over the coming weeks, the overall aim would be to provide OIE Member Countries, staff, experts and partners with a more tailored, flexible approach to their PVS Pathway engagement that was more responsive to their particular needs.

In conclusion, he said that such an evolution was completely appropriate, given the long standing of the PVS Pathway and its stable and robust basic tools and methods. As the great majority of countries already possess a solid baseline of PVS Pathway evaluation and planning information, more highly tailored approaches will further assist them in moving forward with the OIE to improve animal health globally.

13. Update on the activities related to the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants

Dr Jean-Jacques Soula, OIE Coordinator of the joint FAO-OIE PPR Secretariat began his presentation by underlining that peste des petits ruminants (PPR) was a devastating viral disease that had spread steadily, since it was first identified in 1942, to more than 70 countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. It has a heavy impact on the lives of some 300 million of the world’s poorest families whose livelihoods depend on sheep and goats. The control and eventual eradication of the disease by 2030 will make a major contribution to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular ending poverty (SDG1) and ending hunger and malnutrition (SDG2).

Dr Soula added that, in April 2015, participants in an international conference held by FAO and the OIE in Abidjan, approved the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (PPR-GCES), which was endorsed by FAO and OIE member countries, in 2015 and 2016, through the supreme governing bodies of the two organisations. Accordingly, the joint FAO-OIE PPR Secretariat was established in 2016 and the PPR Regional Roadmap consultation process was conducted in 76 infected or at-risk countries, divided into nine regions.

He went on to explain that, in 2016, following an inclusive and peer-reviewed drafting process, FAO and the OIE had launched the PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR-GEP) for the period 2017-2021. It includes components on stakeholder involvement, strengthening Veterinary Services, support for diagnostic and surveillance systems, vaccination campaigns and control of other small ruminant diseases. A pledging conference will be held in the coming months in order to mobilise additional resources and plug the financial gaps with on-going projects and programmes.

Dr Soula concluded by saying that PPR-GEP was a flagship programme for FAO and OIE, as PPR eradication was linked directly to major global challenges like food and nutrition security, poverty alleviation, resilience, women's empowerment and migration control.

Dr Soula also showed a communications video on PPR eradication.

14. Outcomes of the 23rd Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China, held from 8 to 10 March 2017, in Siem Reap, Cambodia

Dr Sen Sovann, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission and Delegate of Cambodia, began his presentation by informing participants that a SEACFMD Sub-Commission Steering Committee Meeting and a Progress Assessment Meeting for the Progressive Control Pathway for Foot and Mouth Disease (PCP-FMD) had been held on 8 March 2017, back to back with the 23rd Meeting of the OIE SEACFMD Sub-Commission.

Dr Sen Sovann highlighted the objectives of the 23rd Meeting of the OIE SEACFMD Sub-Commission: to revise and endorse the status of SEACFMD Member Countries within the PCP-FMD; to update participants on the current global and regional foot and mouth disease situation and to discuss major challenges in the region; to share experiences and lessons learned from implementing the SEACFMD Roadmap; and to discuss the 2017/2018 priorities and action plan of the SEACFMD Campaign.

Dr Sen Sovann confirmed that the discussions had been fruitful and went on to give a brief presentation of the outcomes of the meeting, highlighting the following.

- Revision of the requirements in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* that are relevant to foot and mouth disease trade, vaccine and diagnostics.
- Discussions on the latest global and regional foot and mouth disease situation and challenges.
- Update on the progress of the SEACFMD Campaign against SEACFMD Roadmap milestones, including selected case studies from Member Countries to share good practices and lessons learned in implementing the SEACFMD Roadmap.
- The meeting highlighted that, to achieve foot and mouth disease eradication, vital prerequisites were: a regional governance and coordination mechanism and Veterinary Service capacity-building; a tailored regional surveillance and mass vaccination strategy; sustained political and financial commitment by Member Countries; and strong private-public partnerships.

- The meeting endorsed the evaluation outcomes of applicant countries for their PCP-FMD status. It was pointed out that the future success of the foot and mouth disease programme relied on a proper risk assessment in Stage 1. It was recommended that countries at PCP Stage 1 should make a more accurate assessment of the foot and mouth disease situation and impact at a national level, and that countries completing PCP Stage 1 should consolidate their national plans and base control measures on the risks identified in Stage 1.

Finally, Dr Sen Sovann reported that, after reviewing the SEACFMD Campaign priorities and action plan for 2017/2018, the meeting had concluded with key recommendations, which would serve as a guideline for the SEACFMD Campaign's work in the following year. Among the key recommendations, Dr Sen Sovann highlighted the endorsement of the revised Terms of Reference of the SEACFMD Sub-Commission which has changed the composition of the Sub-Commission to OIE Delegates (CVO/DG) of the member countries, and for which the presidency would be elected among the OIE Delegates of the SEACFMD member countries.

15. Proposal for designation of a new OIE Collaborating Centre for Diagnostic Test Validation Science in the Asia-Pacific Region

Dr Mark Schipp, Vice-President of the OIE Council and Delegate of Australia presented on behalf of Australia and New Zealand as Dr Tony Zohrab, OIE Delegate of New Zealand, had to leave the meeting. He presented the Regional Commission with an application for the OIE to consider the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL), the Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (FVAS) of the University of Melbourne and the Massey University EpiCentre as a Collaborating Centre for "Diagnostic Test Validation Science in the Asia-Pacific region".

He provided a brief review of the centre and proposed activities and said that full details could be found in the working document of the meeting.

The Commission approved the proposal by Australia and New Zealand.

16. Presentations by International and Regional Organisations

Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA)

Mr Eduardo Leño from the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific presented the Quarterly Aquatic Animal Disease (QAAD) Reporting System, which had been established in 1998 in collaboration with FAO and the OIE.

He said that, at the outset, 22 countries had participated in the reporting system but that it now covered all OIE Member Countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including French Polynesia (34 countries in total), after NACA reports were merged with those of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific.

Mr Leño added that the QAAD Reporting System included OIE-listed aquatic animal diseases, as well as other important diseases in the region.

Mr Leño concluded by saying that, since it had been established more than 18 years earlier, the QAAD Reporting System had served as an early warning system for emerging diseases in the region, had provided a valuable source of information to support risk analysis, and had paved the way for excellent regional networking in support of disease surveillance and reporting.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN – Regional office for Asia and the Pacific.

Dr Katinka De Balogh, from the FAO-RAP, presented on their animal health and production activities. Dr De Balogh explained that FAO serves as the secretariat for Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and Pacific (APHCA). There is also the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Diseases (ECTAD) in Bangkok, which was set up after the initial outbreaks of Avian Influenza.

The types of projects carried out are technical, such as strengthening disease foresight, laboratory, epidemiology and response capacities; political, such as stakeholder consultation, policy support and guidance – for example the AMR national action plans; and socio-economic, such as value-chain analysis and support to community based animal health.

She stressed that antimicrobial resistance and use is a strong area of focus and part of the tripartite agreement with OIE and WHO. Also the United Against Rabies initiative with OIE, GARC and WHO.

FAO is also looking at expanding One Health into the so called One Health +, which includes crop and plant sector and has so far not been integrated into One Health.

The meeting officially ended at 6:30 p.m.

.../Appendix

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda;
2. OIE Regional Roadmap implementation - challenges faced by the region;
3. Report from OIE Council meetings;
4. Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania;
5. Organisation of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in Malaysia, in November 2017;
6. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania;
7. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 87th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2019;
8. Proposal of a Member of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to join the OIE Council;
9. Proposal of Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania as Vice-President and Secretary General;
10. Process for election to Specialist Commissions;
11. Discussion and Approval of the Coordination Procedure for Developing Regional Positions for the OIE General Session;
12. Preliminary outcomes of the PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum;
13. Update on the activities related to the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants;
14. Outcomes of the 23rd Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China, held from 8 to 10 March 2017, in Siem Reap, Cambodia;
15. Proposal for designation of a new OIE Collaborating Centre for Diagnostic Test Validation Science in the Asia-Pacific Region;
16. Presentations by International and Regional Organisations:
 - *Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA)*;
 - *Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN – Regional office for Asia and the Pacific.*

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Paris, 22 May 2017

The OIE Regional Commission for Europe met on 22 May 2017 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 134 participants, including Delegates and observers from 44 Members of the Commission and representatives from 7 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Rep., Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldavia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and United Kingdom.

International/regional organisations: European Commission, EEC⁴⁸, FESASS⁴⁹, FVE⁵⁰, IZSAM⁵¹, RSPCA⁵², and World Horse Welfare.

The meeting was co-chaired by Dr Maris Balodis, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Delegate of Latvia, and Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Past President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates and Delegate of Germany.

1. Opening and Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda described in the Appendix, amended to include the presentation of EEC and the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation for Central Asian control of FMD and animal movement management, was unanimously adopted.

2. Presentation and adoption of the Terms of Reference and Regional Strategic Plan Framework of the Task Force of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe for improving regional participation in OIE activities

Dr Ulrich Herzog, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Delegate of Austria, gave a brief presentation of the Terms of Reference and Regional Strategic Plan Framework 2017-2020 of the Task Force. He began by reminding participants that Member Countries had agreed to revitalise the Task Force at the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, held in Lisbon (Portugal) in September 2016.

⁴⁸ EEC: Eurasian Economic Commission

⁴⁹ FESASS: European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security

⁵⁰ FVE: Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

⁵¹ IZSAM: Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise

⁵² RSPCA: Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Dr Herzog reported that, following the first Task Force meeting, held in Belgrade (Serbia) in December 2016, a preliminary draft of the Terms of Reference and the Regional Work Plan had been circulated among all Member Countries for comment and further suggestions. The responses were discussed at the second Task Force meeting in Riga (Latvia), where it was agreed that the Task Force should be renamed the “Regional Core Group” (RCG), following the example of other OIE Regional Commissions.

Dr Herzog said that the RCG worked to support the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Europe in specific areas, as defined in the Terms of Reference. He briefly detailed the tasks of the RCG.

With regard to the composition and functioning of the RCG, Dr Herzog explained that the recommendation had been for it to comprise five members from non-European Union Member countries and four from European Union Member countries. The Members of the Bureau are de facto members. The other Members sending a representative to the RCG meeting are selected at the same time as the Members of the Bureau are elected. The OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels acts as the RCG secretariat. The President of the Regional Commission is the chairperson, and the RCG will hold two physical meetings per year.

Dr Herzog said that the Regional Work Plan Framework contained three chapters. Chapter 1, entitled “Regional Directions”, described the vision and strategic objectives, which are in line with the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan. Furthermore, it contains the tasks, Terms of Reference and working methods of the Regional Commission.

Chapter 2, entitled “Regional Objectives and Work Plan Components”, explains the specific items and proposes the following six objectives: (1) contributing to the development of scientifically-based standards and guidelines; (2) establishing trust through transparency and communication; (3) ensuring education, capacity and sustainability of Veterinary Services; (4) prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases; (5) antimicrobial resistance and “One Health” policy; (6) promotion of animal welfare.

Chapter 3, entitled “Activities for Achievement of the Regional Objectives”, gives an overview of ten activities for the coming years, including: development of a strategy and ensuring sufficient financial and human resources; establishment of a Regional Core Group; supporting the work of the African swine fever and lumpy skin disease working groups of the Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) for Europe; and supporting its Members in establishing links with the human health sector when working on the control of zoonoses.

The Delegate of Spain thanked the Chair on behalf of the 28 EU countries. He welcomed the achievements of the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe and in particular the outcomes of the activities implemented under its first action plan. The EU thanked the Secretariat of the OIE Platform, the members and observers of its Steering Group and all the countries involved for the excellent work carried out during the first three years of the platform. The EU fully supports the adoption of the second Action Plan 2017-2019 and will continue supporting and contributing to the activities of the OIE Platform, in full synergy and coordinating with other EU international activities on animal welfare.

The Terms of Reference of the Regional Core Group and the Regional Work Plan Framework 2017-2020 of the Regional Commission for Europe, as well as the Second Action Plan of the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe (2017-2019) were unanimously adopted.

The Delegate of Germany however insisted that a logical framework for the Regional Work Plan Framework be developed by the Secretariat of the Regional Core Group to facilitate its implementation and monitoring.

3. Discussion on selected OIE *Code* and *Manual* chapters (to be possibly proposed on behalf of the 53 Member Countries of Europe during the 85th General Session)

Dr Maris Balodis, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Delegate of Latvia, began his presentation by explaining that the Core Group (former Task Force) of the Regional Commission for Europe had held two meetings so far: the first meeting in Belgrade, Serbia (December 2016) and the second meeting in Riga, Latvia (April 2017). He stated that one of the priority topics for the Core Group was the selection of OIE *Code* and *Manual* chapters of regional importance. He explained that intensive discussions on the matter had been held at both meetings.

Dr Balodis reported that the Core Group discussions had resulted in an agreement to select from the list a total of 14 chapters (10 from the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, 2 from the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual)* and 2 from the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*) and to prepare coordinated speaking notes on behalf of the 53 Members of the region for the 85th OIE General Session.

Dr Balodis then provided details regarding the selected chapters. The 14 chapters selected by the Regional Core Group received full support from Member Countries. Speakers were also identified to deliver the related chapters' Speaking Notes on Wednesday, on behalf of the 53 Member Countries of Europe.

4. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe:

- Application of biosecurity in different production systems at individual, country and regional levels

The Regional Commission also proposed: “Vector borne diseases: monitoring, risk assessment and control options” as a possible second Technical Item (without questionnaire).

5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 87th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2019

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 87th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates:

- Electronic health certification for animal and animal products -trade opportunities and challenges

6. Proposal for designation of a new OIE Collaborating Centre for research and control of emerging and re-emerging swine diseases in Europe

Dr Valentín Almansa, OIE Delegate of Spain, presented the Regional Commission with an application for the OIE to consider *Centre de Recerca en Sanitat Animal (CRESA) - Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentàries (IRTA)* as a Collaborating Centre for diagnosis and control of emerging and re-emerging swine diseases in Europe.

He provided a brief review of the centre and its activities and said that full details could be found in the working document of the meeting.

Dr Karin Schwabenbauer added that the application of Spain was already approved by the OIE Biological Standard Commission and by the OIE Council.

The Commission approved Spain's proposal.

7. Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the cooperation for Central Asian control of FMD and animal movement management

Dr Mereke Taitubayev, Head of the OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana took the opportunity of the Regional Commission meeting to invite the involved Delegates present in the audience (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan) to sign the agreed MoU. Tajikistan and Uzbekistan will join this MoU later.

8. OIE Regional Roadmap implementation - challenges faced by the region

Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas, OIE Regional Representative in Moscow, on behalf of all OIE Representatives in the region, provided participants with details on the OIE Regional Roadmap, its development and the challenges faced by the region.

He began his presentation by briefly commenting on the OIE Headquarters Roadmap, which had been developed to address key issues for which significant changes were expected by Member Countries and whose activities would be followed up directly by the OIE Director General.

He then provided details on the development of the Regional Roadmap by the annual meeting of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations in Paris in October 2016, following a review of the activities of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations and OIE Headquarters.

Dr Lukauskas explained that the Regional Roadmap, to be implemented by the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, was the working programme for the forthcoming period, with the aims of: supporting the OIE Headquarters Roadmap; better harmonising activities among the regions; and strengthening collaboration within and between regions and between the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, the Regional Commissions and OIE Headquarters. He noted that the roadmap was flexible in order to be able to incorporate the specific needs of each region.

Dr Lukauskas then briefly reviewed the main challenges faced by the Europe region in implementing some of the Regional Roadmap activities identified for the three strategic objectives and three cross-cutting areas.

He concluded by noting that the Regional Representation in Moscow, the Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels and the Office in Astana had participated actively and would continue to expand cooperation and communication with the countries of Europe, as well as to give high visibility to the OIE in the region by acting as a bridge between the OIE and countries. He added that the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations had contributed to implementing the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan in Europe by: supporting the implementation of the OIE's scientifically based standards and guidelines in the region; establishing successful collaboration with Member Country governments and authorities; regularly informing the Delegates of OIE Member Countries in the region on the epidemiological situation in the region and worldwide; building the capacity of Veterinary Services in Europe (including five OIE regional seminars for Focal Points, a number of activities relating to the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe, Roadmap meetings for foot and mouth disease and peste des petits ruminants under the FAO-OIE Global

Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), and Twinning of Veterinary Statutory Bodies and Veterinary Education Establishments).

The Delegate of Germany commented that the presentation, mostly focussing on challenges, did not properly reflect the amount of work implemented in the region.

9. Outcomes of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, held in Lisbon, Portugal from 19 to 23 September 2016

Dr Mereke Taitubayev, Head of the OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana, informed participants of the outcomes of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe.

Dr Taitubayev explained that the Conference had provided an opportunity to propose a new format for this institutional event, including a poster session, a panel discussion and working group sessions. The new dynamic was very well received by Delegates from the region and other participants.

Dr Taitubayev briefly commented on the main outcomes of the Conference, as follows:

- The need to strengthen and clarify the role of the Bureau of the Regional Commission and the Council was noted, including encouraging closer cooperation between them and the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. It resulted in the revitalisation of the Task Force of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe.
- Participants encouraged the OIE to take any opportunity to develop closer collaboration with international and regional organisations.
- Countries were urged to strengthen their surveillance and control efforts to improve information-sharing on animal diseases.
- As the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) was a key element, countries were requested to actively contribute in improving the new version to ensure that their needs were taken into account.
- Countries were asked to reinforce their regional cooperation to fight African swine fever and lumpy skin disease and to continue to participate actively in revising related *Code* chapters.
- The two technical items developed during the conference – (i) “Control and elimination of rabies in Europe: challenges and strategies for a rabies-free Europe” (with questionnaire) and (ii) “Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD): current situation in Europe and neighbouring regions and necessary control measures to halt the spread in South-East Europe” (without questionnaire) – were particularly timely themes. Recommendations will be submitted for endorsement by the World Assembly of Delegates at the 85th General Session.
- Awareness of the issue of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) was raised to the highest political level when the OIE Director General attended the High-level Meeting on AMR at the United Nations in New York on 21 September 2016. In connection with the work of the (FAO/OIE/World Health Organization) tripartite alliance on AMR, countries were called upon to participate more effectively in OIE data collection on the use of antimicrobials in animals, the development of preventive actions and the drafting and implementation of National Action Plans on AMR.
- Participants were requested to reflect on the possible evolution of the OIE PVS Pathway. On the basis of working groups and an open discussion, they considered how to enhance the value of PVS Pathway to countries. The results of the discussions served as a cornerstone for the current debate on improving the OIE PVS Pathway,

further discussed during the OIE PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum in Paris in April 2017.

10. Confirmation of the venue of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in September 2018

Dr Lasha Avaliani, OIE Delegate of Georgia, confirmed his country's offer to host the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe. The Conference will be held in Tbilisi (Georgia) in September 2018.

11. Preliminary outcomes of the PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum

Dr Nadège Leboucq, OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels, described the OIE PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum, which had been held at OIE Headquarters in Paris from 4 to 6 April 2017. She confirmed that it had clearly met its stated purpose of providing an “opportunity to work together to review and plan for the strategic evolution of the OIE PVS Pathway in improving animal health and welfare globally”, with its three days of highly successful, interactive, stimulating and productive discussion.

She explained that the 74 participants had been divided into four roughly equal-sized stakeholder groups representing: (i) Member Countries; (ii) OIE staff; (iii) PVS Pathway experts and (iv) OIE partners (including donors). Each group had focused on four or five concepts or options of greatest relevance to the group for evolving the PVS Pathway. Dr Leboucq gave a brief summary of the concepts that had been considered and commended the excellent feedback received from all participants on the detailed preparations, the interactive and innovative format and delivery, and the positive, open and convivial atmosphere throughout.

Dr Leboucq said that the report was being finalised and that outcomes would be shared with all Member Countries and interested parties, with the evolution of the OIE PVS Pathway to be rolled out intensively over the next 12 months. She added that, while the specifics would be confirmed over the coming weeks, the overall aim would be to provide OIE Member Countries, staff, experts and partners with a more tailored, flexible approach to their PVS Pathway engagement that was more responsive to their particular needs.

In conclusion, she said that such an evolution was completely appropriate, given the long standing of the PVS Pathway and its stable and robust basic tools and methods. As the great majority of countries already possess a solid baseline of PVS Pathway evaluation and planning information, more highly tailored approaches will further assist them in moving forward with the OIE to improve animal health globally.

12. Proposal of designation of the current OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana as a new OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central Asia

Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, OIE Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities, presented the OIE Regional Commission with an application to designate the current OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana as the new OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central Asia. This change was proposed taking into account the scope of the activities carried out by the office.

Dr Dop provided the Commission with brief details on the activities to be covered by the office and the advantages of promoting such a Coordination Unit Office to an OIE Sub-Regional Representation.

According to the Article 33 of General Rules, the Commission was consulted and approved the proposal presented by Dr Dop.

13. Status of notifications in Europe with an overview of PPR in saiga antelope in Mongolia

Dr Marija Popovic, Chargée de mission at the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, gave a brief update on the status of notifications by Members in the region as of 18 May 2017.

She then gave a short presentation of an outbreak of infection with peste des petits ruminants that had begun in Mongolia in December 2016 and had caused massive die-off of saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica mongolica*). She said that this event was important as it affected the critically endangered saiga antelope species and it was a GF-TADs priority disease. Dr Popovic pointed out that this episode might raise the question of the role of wildlife in peste des petits ruminants in the context of the Global Strategy for the control and eradication of peste des petits ruminants. She added that the disease could be important to the region because it had spread beyond the areas where it was previously known to exist to newly infected countries, occurring for the first time in Asia (Mongolia) and Europe (Georgia) in 2016.

To conclude, Dr Popovic informed the region that more information on the disease would be presented at the plenary and she invited participants to view a poster about peste des petits ruminants.

The Delegate of Austria raised concerns with the extra work due to possible additional data to be provided to WAHIS+ by the countries and their relevance.

Dr Marija Popovic replied that the content of WAHIS+ will be based on the results of surveys sent to OIE Delegates, OIE Focal Points and other potential users and that the technical specifications will be developed accordingly. In addition, WAHIS+ will be connected to several information systems from other regional and international organisations.

Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, OIE Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities, added that the Council proposed to establish two Committees to provide technical and strategic guidance for the WAHIS+ development.

14. Update on the GF-TADs for Europe activities

Dr Bernard Van Goethem, President of GF-TADs for Europe Steering Committee, informed participants that since May 2016, GF-TADs for Europe had continued to prove its value and effectiveness for African swine fever (ASF) control and lumpy skin disease (LSD).

He also reported on a series of regional meetings – (ASF5/Lisbon, September 2016; ASF6/Vilnius, November 2016; LSD2/ Lisbon, September 2016; LSD3/Istanbul, December 2016) and a teleconference (February 2017) – which had led to a better understanding of disease dynamics (for African swine fever, in both domestic pigs and wild boar), had increased trust and dialogue among affected and at-risk countries and had provided them with science-based technical guidance.

On the subject of lumpy skin disease, Dr Van Goethem explained that harmonised vaccination in south-east Europe had been agreed and put in place with significant support from the European Commission.

Finally, he reported that the seventh meeting of the GF-TADs for Europe Steering Committee was scheduled to be held in Brussels in October 2017 and that the agenda included discussions and decisions on the regional situation and on coordinated initiatives for the seven regional priority transboundary animal diseases (African swine fever, brucellosis, classical swine fever, foot and mouth disease, highly pathogenic avian influenza, peste des petits ruminants and rabies), as well as for emerging ones (lumpy skin

disease), adding that special attention should also be paid to vector-borne diseases in the near future.

15. Update on the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) activities

Dr. Vladimir Subbotin, Deputy Head of EEC, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to present the outcomes of the EEC integration and cooperation with the OIE. He named the EEC member states and provided background on the cooperation between the members in the veterinary domain. He underlined the creation of legislation harmonised with international standards. It will facilitate trade processes, with impacts notably expected in the fields of laboratory, border controls, inspection of farms and food business operators.

He mentioned the assessment done by the EEC in Kyrgyzstan following the OIE PVS Evaluation Follow-Up mission and underlined some achievements in Kyrgyzstan thanks to PVS Pathway implementation, in particular the creation of a Veterinary Statutory Body, animal registration and identification and the development of a Strategic Plan for Veterinary Services. He mentioned that coordination of cooperation between EEC Member States will lead to the establishment of a reference laboratory system for final diagnostic confirmation.

In addition to the office of EEC in Moscow, Dr Subbotin mentioned the future establishment of a sub-regional office in Astana.

The meeting officially ended at 6.18 p.m.

.../Appendix

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Agenda

1. Opening and Adoption of the Agenda;
2. Presentation and adoption of the Terms of Reference and Regional Strategic Plan Framework of the Task Force of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe for improving regional participation in OIE activities;
3. Discussion on selected OIE *Code* and *Manual* chapters (to be possibly proposed on behalf of the 53 Member Countries of Europe during the 85th General Session);
4. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe;
5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 87th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2019;
6. Proposal for designation of a new OIE Collaborating Centre for research and control of emerging and re-emerging swine diseases in Europe;
7. Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the cooperation for Central Asian control of FMD and animal movement management;
8. OIE Regional Roadmap implementation - challenges faced by the region;
9. Outcomes of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, held in Lisbon, Portugal from 19 to 23 September 2016;
10. Confirmation of the venue of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in September 2018;
11. Preliminary outcomes of the PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum;
12. Proposal of designation of the current OIE Sub-Regional FMD Coordination Unit Office in Astana as a new OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central Asia;
13. Status of notifications in Europe with an overview of PPR in saiga antelope in Mongolia;
14. Update on the GF-TADs for Europe activities;
15. Update on the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) activities.

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

Paris, 22 May 2017

The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 22 May 2017 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 47 participants, including Delegates and observers from 13 Members of the Commission, 1 observer territory, and representatives from 2 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Observer territory: Palestinian Autonomous Territories.

International/regional organisations: FAO and the Donkey Sanctuary.

The meeting was co-chaired by Dr Majid Al-Qassimi, Delegate of United Arab Emirates and Dr Elias Ibrahim, Delegate of Lebanon, both Vice-Presidents of the OIE Regional Commission, assisted by Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

2. OIE Regional Roadmap implementation - challenges faced by the region

Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, provided participants with details on the OIE Regional Roadmap, its development and the challenges faced by the region.

He described the main objectives of the activities implemented by the OIE Regional Representation under the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan during the previous 12 months, which had focused mainly on building the capacity of Veterinary Services and contributing to animal disease prevention and control in the Middle East.

Dr Yehia provided details of the assistance given to countries wishing to take part in laboratory and veterinary education Twinning programmes. Dr Yehia also described the challenges observed in conducting these activities in a particularly unstable geopolitical context.

He then presented the conclusions of the workshop on OIE standards for safe trade, held in Dubai in March 2017, and informed participants on the joint project with Brussels OIE office on formulating modules on animal welfare for transport of animals by land and sea.

Dr Yehia also commented on the appointment of new Delegates in Member Countries of the region.

He then gave brief details on the regional strategies, in particular for implementation of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Progressive Control Pathway (FMD-PCP) and the Peste des Petits Ruminants Monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT) in the region, as well as the two regional advisory group meetings planned to take place in 2017.

He also referred to the Middle East Regional Animal Welfare Strategy's Action Plan and commented on the advocating document drawn up to raise funds for its implementation. He gave details on the work that had been done in the region and the planned activities on long-distance transport by land and sea.

He then provided a brief summary of activities planned over the coming months, including a seminar for OIE Focal Points for veterinary products; the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East; and an FMD/PPR Roadmaps meeting.

He concluded by reminding Delegates that the OIE Regional Representation office for the Middle East was open to welcome any experts, staff or representatives from regional OIE Members for assistance or training.

3. Organisation of the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held from 2 to 6 October 2017

Dr Visal Kayacik, representative of Turkey, confirmed that her country was willing and honoured to hold this important regional event and invited all Delegates to attend the conference.

She gave a brief account of the various arrangements that Turkey had made to start organising the conference. Dr Kayacik showed a video on visiting Istanbul and provided general information about visa issuance, hotel accommodation and transport, giving assurances that full details would be sent to participants in a timely manner.

Dr Yehia offered to provide any support to Delegates for their attendance and planning for the conference.

4. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (without questionnaire) for inclusion in the agenda of the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East:

- Addressing Challenges in the Middle East at the Human Animal Interface under the One Health concept

Dr Yehia thanked all the Delegates for their other suggestions which included “overview of the aquatic fauna in the Mediterranean and its impact on fish diseases”, “integrated tick control” and “*Brucella melitensis* control in camels and cattle”. He noted that there could also be an opportunity for discussion on such issues at the upcoming Regional Commission Conference in Turkey.

5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 87th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2019

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 87th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2019:

- Socio-economic impact of new emerging and re-emerging parasitic infestations of livestock

6. Proposal of a Member of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission for the Middle East as President

Dr Hadi Mohsin Al-Lawati, Member of the OIE Council and Delegate of Oman, reminded participants that the Delegate of Qatar had stepped down, leaving vacant his position as President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, which required an election to be held.

Following a discussion involving several Delegates, Dr Majid Al-Qassimi, Delegate of United Arab Emirates, was unanimously proposed as President of the OIE Regional Commission for a one-year period, until the election for the next three-year mandate of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission, which will be held in May 2018.

To replace Dr Majid Al-Qassimi's current role as Vice-President, Dr Fajer Al-Saloom Delegate of Bahrain, was unanimously proposed as a new Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for a one-year period, until the election for the next three-year mandate of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission, which will be held in May 2018.

This proposal will be presented to the World Assembly for endorsement.

7. Preliminary outcomes of the PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum

Dr John Stratton, Deputy Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, described the OIE PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum, which had been held at OIE Headquarters in Paris from 4 to 6 April 2017. He confirmed that it had clearly met its stated purpose of providing an “opportunity to work together to review and plan for the strategic evolution of the OIE PVS Pathway in improving animal health and welfare globally”, with its three days of highly successful, interactive, stimulating and productive discussion.

He explained that the 74 participants had been divided into four roughly equal-sized stakeholder groups representing: (i) Member Countries; (ii) OIE staff; (iii) PVS Pathway experts and (iv) OIE partners (including donors). Each group had focused on four or five concepts or options of greatest relevance to the group for evolving the PVS Pathway. Dr Stratton gave a brief summary of the concepts that had been considered and commended the excellent feedback received from all participants on the detailed preparations, the interactive and innovative format and delivery, and the positive, open and convivial atmosphere throughout.

Dr Stratton said that the report was being finalised and that outcomes would be shared with all Member Countries and interested parties, with the evolution of the OIE PVS Pathway to be rolled out intensively over the next 12 months. He added that, while the specifics would be confirmed over the coming weeks, the overall aim would be to provide OIE Member Countries, staff, experts and partners with a more tailored, flexible approach to their PVS Pathway engagement that was more responsive to their particular needs.

In conclusion, he said that such an evolution was completely appropriate, given the long standing of the PVS Pathway and its stable and robust basic tools and methods. As the great majority of countries already possess a solid baseline of PVS Pathway evaluation and planning information, more highly tailored approaches will further assist them in moving forward with the OIE to improve animal health globally.

8. Update on the activities related to the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants

Dr Jean-Jacques Soula, OIE Coordinator of the joint FAO-OIE PPR Secretariat began his presentation by underlining that peste des petits ruminants (PPR) was a devastating viral disease that had spread steadily, since it was first identified in 1942, to more than 70 countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. It has a heavy impact on the lives of some 300 million of the world's poorest families whose livelihoods depend on sheep and goats. The control and eventual eradication of the disease by 2030 will make a major contribution to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular ending poverty (SDG1) and ending hunger and malnutrition (SDG2).

Dr Soula added that, in April 2015, participants in an international conference held by FAO and the OIE in Abidjan, approved the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (PPR-GCES), which was endorsed by FAO and OIE member countries, in 2015 and 2016, through the supreme governing bodies of the two organisations. Accordingly, the joint FAO-OIE PPR Secretariat was established in 2016 and the PPR Regional Roadmap consultation process was conducted in 76 infected or at-risk countries, divided into nine regions.

He went on to explain that, in 2016, following an inclusive and peer-reviewed drafting process, FAO and the OIE had launched the PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR-GEP) for the period 2017-2021. It includes components on stakeholder involvement, strengthening Veterinary Services, support for diagnostic and surveillance systems, vaccination campaigns and control of other small ruminant diseases. A pledging conference will be held in the coming months in order to mobilise additional resources and plug the financial gaps with on-going projects and programmes.

Dr Soula concluded by saying that PPR-GEP was a flagship programme for FAO and OIE, as PPR eradication was linked directly to major global challenges like food and nutrition security, poverty alleviation, resilience, women's empowerment and migration control.

Dr Soula also showed a communications video on PPR eradication.

Dr Yehia mentioned that there will be back-to-back FMD and PPR Roadmap meetings in Amman, Jordan from 15-18 October 2017, to update the regional roadmap, review national evaluation and planning using PMAT and update the Regional Advisory Group (RAG) if required.

Dr Ahmad Al-Majali, observer from the University of Science and Technology (Jordan), commented that all of the Middle East countries were infected with PPR and that the countries needed to work harder on PPR control. He noted that a problem is there is no DIVA testing (Differentiating Infected from Vaccinated Animals) yet so finishing development and use of this technology should be a focus. The Jordan Bio-Industries Centre (JOVAC) is producing a vaccine that can facilitate DIVA testing and it should be used to help countries move along the PMAT stages. The French Agricultural Research and International Corporation Organization (CIRAD), France and JOVAC, Jordan are engaging in an OIE Twinning programme on PPR and contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP) diagnostics.

Dr Yehia commented that JOVAC has been chosen as a PPR vaccine bank site for Africa and Middle East. He encouraged all Members to come to Amman in October thoroughly prepared with their national PPR planning.

9. Status of notifications by Members in the Middle East

Dr Neo Mapitse, Deputy Head of the OIE World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department, gave a brief update on the status of notifications by Members in the region as of 18 May 2017.

He began by providing some indicators on compliance with reporting in 2016. He mentioned that the region could make improvements in the submission of aquatic and annual reports and he encouraged Members with outstanding reports to submit them in a timely manner through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) to improve the regional outlook.

Dr Mapitse also gave an overview of some of the elements of tracking events not notified to the OIE and encouraged Members to provide feedback to clarify the situation when requests were made.

To conclude, Dr Mapitse asked for support from the region to recommend one animal disease notification focal point from the region to join the Technical Advisory Committee, which is one of the governance bodies of the WAHIS+ renovation project.

Dr Yehia emphasised that the region needed to improve its reporting of diseases from its aquatic animal and wildlife populations, and that Members need to reach out across to the relevant Ministries to ensure this can happen.

10. Update on the camel Middle East network (CaMeNet)

Dr Salama Al Muhairi, Director of the Veterinary Laboratories Department at Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority (ADFCA), gave a brief update on the status of the regional laboratory networking initiative, CaMeNeT, which is a scientific network on camel health and practices, consisting of nine camel-breeding countries in the Middle East: Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Dr Al Muhairi explained that the main objective of CaMeNeT was to assist Member Countries developing their camel sector, in particular by controlling camel diseases. She noted that the establishment of CaMeNeT was a strategic step for countries in the region to address the challenges related to the global economic impact of camels.

Dr Al Muhairi also explained that, through CaMeNeT, Member Countries would be able to:

1. Improve scientific and technological capabilities for camel disease epidemiology and diagnosis.
2. Ensure coordination between international organisations (OIE/FAO/World Health Organization) and national authorities (including Veterinary Services) in Member Countries to combat and control camel diseases, including emerging diseases.
3. Facilitate cooperation between national, regional and international institutions, Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres to build capacity and share experiences.
4. Contribute to the development, standardisation and accreditation of diagnostic methods for major camel diseases in accordance with the global standards and procedures of the OIE.
5. Encourage studies on epidemiological diseases of camels and the common risks of animals, humans and the environment.

11. Presentations by International and Regional Organisations

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Dr Berhe Tekola, Director of the Animal Production and Health Division at FAO, apologised for the designated FAO speaker, Dr Markos Tibbo Dambi, being unavailable. He said he would give a quick overview of FAO priorities in the region. He informed participants that FAO assisted member countries by building their capacity for disease surveillance, as well as through the prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses, building the resilience of communities by protecting their livestock assets with a view to improving productivity. He mentioned that partnerships, including with OIE, were mandatory in how FAO was working.

He added that the disruption of Veterinary Services and the increase in unregulated animal movements in conflict-affected countries were two of the factors that had heightened disease threats in the region. In that regard, FAO has provided training in good emergency management practice(s) and in animal disease emergency preparedness and response, as well as serving as a neutral forum interface with a variety of stakeholders.

FAO has also provided direct support for animal disease surveillance, diagnosis, control of priority animal diseases (foot and mouth disease, peste des petits ruminants, lumpy skin disease, brucellosis, bluetongue, Middle East respiratory syndrome and highly pathogenic avian influenza [HPAI]) and response to antimicrobial resistance. FAO has contributed to or organised important regional events on such issues as the contribution of livestock to food security, expert consultation on contingency planning for HPAI control, capacity-building for antimicrobial resistance surveillance, One Health, and Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of countries to accelerate compliance with WHO International Health Regulations.

Dr Tekola concluded by saying that FAO provided technical, institutional and policy advice through capacity-building, knowledge management, the mobilisation of expertise on sustainable livestock production and the management of feed and animal genetic resources. FAO also supports smallholders engaged in dairy, poultry and small ruminant farming to increase production efficiencies, income, access to markets and resilience to shocks.

Dr Tekola briefly highlighted other FAO priority work in the region including with technology transfer, AMR, community animal health systems, PPR, FMD, avian influenza, MERSCoV and livestock and climate change. He addressed the previous comment relating to the lack of DIVA testing for PPR in the region as being a political decision in opposition to genetic modification used to create the recombinant vaccine. The DIVA tool was ready and this opposition should be overcome to allow use of this important technology in fighting PPR.

Dr Yehia mentioned that OIE works very closely with FAO in the region and that they looked forward to continuing the excellent working relationship.

The meeting officially ended at 5:15 p.m.

.../Appendix

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda;
2. OIE Regional Roadmap implementation - challenges faced by the region;
3. Organisation of the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held from 2 to 6 October 2017;
4. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 14th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East;
5. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 87th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2019;
6. Proposal of a Member of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission for the Middle East as President;
7. Preliminary outcomes of the PVS Pathway Think Tank Forum;
8. Update on the activities related to the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants;
9. Status of notifications by Members in the Middle East;
10. Update on the camel Middle East network (CaMeNet);
11. Presentations by International and Regional Organisations :
 - *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).*

