



FAO/OIE  
**GF-TADs**  
GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE  
PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF  
TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES  
*For Africa*



## **GF-TADs for Africa**

Sixth Steering Committee (SC6)

Nairobi, Kenya  
4–5 April 2011

# **Draft Minutes and Recommendations**



## Day 1

### **Opening Ceremony**

The Director of the AU-IBAR, Prof. Ahmed Elsalwahy, expressed his happiness to host the 6th Steering Committee meeting of the GF-TADs for Africa. He indicated that presently, it is an important moment of the AU-IBAR as the strategic plan for the organisation has been launched since a year with one of the main objective being to reduce transborder animal diseases (TADs). Prof. Elsalwahy reminded all the efforts done in collaboration with the FAO and the African Union Member States in fighting against avian influenza by expressing his wish for the experience gained during this fight be used against other diseases such as Peste des petits ruminants (PPR). He also announced that the AU-IBAR would organise a workshop in order to discuss the threats related to PPR. He concluded by highlighting the importance for the Committee to ensure a follow-up on the recommendations while ensuring a better coordination of all animal health stakeholders.

The President of the GF-TADs Steering Committee for Africa, Dr Cheikh Ly, mentioned to the audience that year 2011 would be an historic one with the declaration of Rinderpest global eradication. On the other hand, he emphasized on the fact that there were many other animal health challenges to take care of in the coming years and this would be discussed through the GF-TADs forum. He then reminded that the GF-TADs in Africa was a good example of a joint initiative between the OIE, the FAO and the AU-IBAR and while being a global initiative, the GF-TADs is developing activities at smaller scale such as with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). He finally ended by expressing his hope for this Committee to make recommendations that are implementable by GF-TADs partners.

Dr Walter Masiga, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa, highlighted the importance of the GF-TADs for the OIE Director General and this was reflected by the strong delegation of the organisation to this meeting.

The agenda has been approved without modification.

### **Session 1: Follow up of Regional and Global GF-TADs**

#### **1.1. Recommendations of the 5th Regional Steering Committee (SC5), Addis Ababa, April 2010 – Dr Cheikh Ly (FAO)**

Dr Ly reminded to the participants the list of GF-TADs member organisations and made a brief summary of the follow-up made over the past year on the recommendation of the last steering committee. He highlighted the activities undertaken to address some of the recommendations as follows:

- **Institutional collaboration:**

A working group has been created in order to identify and address the weaknesses and to coordinate the funding of the different existing networks (laboratory, epidemiology, communication, and socioeconomic).

It appears that the Regional Animal Health Centres (RAHCs) are currently having some difficulties. In order to facilitate the work of the RAHC in Bamako, the OIE prepared an MOU in order to ensure a smooth transition. However, it is suggested that a review of the mandate and activities of the RAHCs be made.

- Diseases prevention and control:

*Peste des petits ruminants (PPR).* A multidisciplinary approach for that disease has been recognized. A FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) for the Maghreb countries as well as a risk evaluation in Tanzania have been put in place.

*Rinderpest.* Many actions lead to the eradication of that disease in Africa. The AU-IBAR has a post-eradication strategy regarding that disease which has been presented to the Ministers Conference that took place in Entebbe, Uganda.

*Foot and Mouth Disease.* Many activities took place over the last year regarding that disease such as a laboratory network workshop held in Gaborone, Botswana. The OIE will propose for adoption at the 2011 General Session of the World Assembly of the Delegates the adoption of a resolution for the OIE endorsement of Official Control Programme in relation with the Progressive Control Pathway (PCP).

*Rabies.* The Southern and Eastern African Group (SEARG) met in January 2011 in Mozambique. The OIE is currently organizing the 1st Global Conference on Rabies Control to be held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 7 to 9 September 2011.

*Rift Valley Fever.* The FAO continues its activities related to the surveillance of sentinel herds in Senegal, Mali, and Mauritania. The FAO undertakes mission as needed when there are outbreaks.

## **1.2. Outcomes of the 3rd Global Steering Committee meeting (GSC3), Paris, September 2010 – Dr Monique Eloit (OIE)**

Dr Monique Eloit first expressed that the GF-TADs for Africa was the most dynamic and efficient of all and that this was due to the excellent synergy between regional and global level. She highlighted that, even if the GF-TADs umbrella has been created years ago in the context of avian influenza, it still has strong interest for many other diseases. The outcomes of the 3rd Global Steering Committee have been presented as follows:

- The report of the second evaluation of the GF-TADs platform has been presented and validated. Fifty (50) recommendations have been developed following a survey made among the partners. In summary, the GF-TADs initiative showed its value as some results have been reached through it. However, there are still some funding issues. The OIE and FAO wrote a common note in order to strengthen and maintain the GF-TADs platform.
- At regional level, the GF-TADs is supported by the RAHCs. However, operating problems occur in some of them. Both OIE and FAO reaffirmed their wish that this partnership be strengthened and improved.
- The GF-TADs Working Groups have been looked at and their objectives have been approved. Currently, only the GF-TADs FMD Working Groups is active at global level. It is planned to activate a PPR and Rift Valley Fever (RVF) working groups.

- The “One Health” concept becomes more recognised with the World Health Organisation (WHO) being involved with OIE and FAO on issues, especially rabies. In fact, the WHO, the OIE, and the FAO signed a common note a year ago to reaffirm the collaborative work around One Health. Dr Chan, WHO Director General, recognised that the work already done in improving Veterinary Services was excellent.
- *Rinderpest*. The year 2011 is the year of the declaration of the global eradication of this disease and also the year of the 250th anniversary of the creation of the veterinary profession. The post-eradication follow-up will have to be well managed. In order to do so, some technical elements related to the Rinderpest eradication could be included in the OIE PVS Evaluation in order to ensure that countries took all the post-eradication necessary provisions.
- *Foot and Mouth Disease*. In 2011, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates should adopt a resolution for the OIE endorsement of Official Control Programme with or without vaccination.
- The OIE and the FAO are analysing the situation regarding Reference Laboratories that are common to both organisations in order to reduce the administrative burden for the laboratories.
- Both OIE and FAO, with occasional difficulties, find the appropriate resources in their own budget to sustain current activities. However, supplementary resources are necessary in order to undertake new activities such as Working Groups (PPR and RVF) or animal disease control strategies.
- The next GF-TADs Global Steering Committee will take place in October 2011.

## **Session 2: Reporting on TADs situation in Africa**

### **2.1. Update on epidemiological situation in Africa – Dr François Caya (OIE)**

Dr François Caya presented the epidemiological situation for the diseases of concern for the GF-TADs Africa. The information provided have been extracted from the Animal Health Situation Report as per presented at the last Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa that took place in Kigali, Rwanda, in February 2011. The persistence of the four *FMD* serotypes (A, O, SAT 1, and SAT 2) in Africa throughout large portions of the continent indicates the need to increase efforts to control the disease. The OIE/FAO Progressive Control Pathway (PCP) for FMD and the likeliness for the adoption of new provisions in the OIE *Code* chapter for endorsement of FMD national control programme based on the PCP are identified as ways to improve the epidemiological situation in Africa for that disease. *Peste des petits ruminants* is still disseminating and in order to better understand the situation of the disease in Africa, better quantitative information should be provided. *Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP)* is still largely present in Africa and some countries faced their first occurrence or a reoccurrence of the disease after many years being free indicating the need to pursue the efforts for the control of that disease. In various countries, *African swine fever (ASF)* remains one of the major animal health issue in swine because of the existence of wildlife reservoirs. Seasonality of *Rift Valley Fever (RVF)* following higher rainfalls should be taken into consideration for undertaking a more

focused surveillance in higher risk periods. Vaccination is an essential control measure to limit the spread of the disease. Finally, *rabies* is endemic in many African countries. Canine rabies being the main source of infection in humans, its control should be focused at its animal source by vaccinating pets and controlling stray carnivore populations.

## **2.2 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 – Dr Bouna Diop (FAO)**

Dr Bouna Diop reported that since April 2010, no new outbreaks of H5N1 HPAI have been reported in countries of Africa except Egypt. The last outbreak of H5N1 HPAI in sub-Saharan Africa was reported from Nigeria in July 2008 and Togo in September 2008. In March 2011, a total of 10 H5 HPAI outbreaks occurred (5 in backyard poultry with chickens, ducks and geese); two in commercial broiler chicken farms and three in commercial duck farms. Five vaccinated holdings reported outbreaks; all of them were commercial farms. All other outbreaks occurred in backyard flocks where either vaccination history is unknown or known to be unvaccinated. Last confirmed case of human infection was reported in March. Of the 130 cases confirmed in Egypt since 2006, 44 have been fatal. Social unrest in Egypt might have resulted in data losses that need to be monitored.

OIE/FAO Regional Animal Health Centres in Tunis, Nairobi, Gaborone and Bamako are contributing to increase awareness and preparedness for H5N1 HPAI. Based on the revised HPAI strategy, critical control points along the poultry value chain will be defined and detailed operational plan will be prepared and implemented. ECTAD Country office will prepare its own strategy in line with the Egyptian HPAI revised strategic direction, consistent with comparative advantages and in accordance with the thrust on agreed relevant strategic objectives of FAO. Project proposals for consolidation of previous ECTAD-FAO achievements and on strategically identified domains will be developed and used for resource mobilization.

## **2.3 Rinderpest – Dr Walter Masiga (OIE)**

Dr Walter Masiga informed that all countries on the continent are recognized as being free from Rinderpest by OIE with the exception of Gambia, Sierra Leone, Comoros, Liberia and São Tomé and Príncipe which AU-IBAR and FAO supported in the presentation of dossiers and are due for recognition this year (2011).

In term of main achievements, Dr Masiga reported on the following collaborating activities:

- Preparations for Africa and Global declaration of rinderpest freedom were in place. FAO and AU-IBAR assisted Gambia, Sierra Leone, Comoros, Liberia and São Tomé and Príncipe in the formulation of dossiers for OIE accreditation of freedom.
- FAO-GREP meeting (November 2010) on lessons learnt from Rinderpest eradication for controlling others TADs, initially focusing on PPR.
- Rinderpest sequestration (questionnaires sent to all member countries). The second batch of questionnaires was sent out in February 2011. The targeted countries were those holding any Rinderpest materials.
- AU-IBAR took advantage of the 8th Livestock Ministers Conference held in May 2010 in Entebbe (Uganda) to raise awareness on the significance of the achievement of global eradication of Rinderpest and lobbied for further investment in the livestock sub-sector, particularly in the control of TADs.

- Organization of a national Rinderpest freedom commemorative event (November 2010) in Kenya.
- AU-IBAR has prepared a project concept note for the post Rinderpest era in the framework of the exit strategy prepared the previous year. AU-IBAR intend to assist all countries in their post-eradication phase by helping them in being recognised and meeting the OIE PVS Pathway requirements.
- During the global declaration commemorative event, the FAO will organize the Rinderpest Symposium with the title “Rinderpest Eradication: Celebration and Obligations” on 27 June 2011. This will be for all Chief Veterinary Officers and FAO guests to celebrate Rinderpest eradication and also, most importantly, to consider the activities that national authorities and international agencies need to ensure are implemented in order to safeguard a rinderpest-free world.
- The FAO, in collaboration with AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC, and the OIE will be hold, in Rabat (11–15 April) and from 6 to 7 May and from 8 to 9 May in Nairobi respectively a meeting for the CVOs and the senior disease investigation officers, epidemiologists and diagnosticians to inform on risk virus resurgence and the related sequestration actions that need to be taken.
- A jointly with AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC IAEA, all countries in the world holding rinderpest containing materials will be gathered in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) to agree on biosecurity measure to ensure proper virus sequestration.

Dr Masiga concluded by insisting on key issues related to Rinderpest virus sequestration such as the finalization and implementation of strategic plans and the up-grading of national contingency taking into account the new world free of Rinderpest.

Discussion:

While recognising the value of rinderpest questionnaire sent to the countries, the participants agreed that it was now time to ensure the follow-up needed to get answers back.

#### **2.4 Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), update on Progressive Control Pathway – Dr Peter de Leeuw (FAO)**

Dr de Leeuw presented the joint FAO/OIE Global FMD Control Strategy that is under development. The Global Strategy will build upon existing programs, such as the OIE-managed South-East Asia/China programme (SEACFMD). In other areas where FMD is still endemic, the corner stone of the strategy will be the Progressive Control Pathway (PCP). The PCP for FMD was developed by FAO and EuFMD and used to develop roadmaps in Africa, the Middle East and Eurasia. Then it has been endorsed by the OIE. The PCP allows countries to make small but distinct steps that suit their needs and to get international acceptance for it through the Global GF-TADs governance structure. To further encourage countries to step up their FMD control activities, OIE is considering official endorsement of country programs approaching the end of the PCP. The Terms of Reference of the joint FAO/OIE FMD Working Group under the Global GF-TADs Steering Committee were discussed as well as the planning for the coming years. The Global FMD Control Strategy should be ready and agreed by the end of 2011. It will be presented during the 2nd International Conference on FMD in Thailand in June 2012. This conference will also have a

pledging component to secure funds in support of developing countries to increase their FMD control activities.

Discussion:

The AU-IBAR expressed its wish to be part of the development of the global FMD control strategy. A representative of the EISMV highlighted that the complexity of the animal production systems in Africa will have to be taken into account while developing the FMD global control strategy. Dr de Leeuw explained that this strategy will be developing in a way to ensure that countries can progress through the overall strategy and that regional organisations would be consulted at some stage in order to ensure the participation and buy in of all stakeholders.

**2.5. Tsetse and trypanosomiasis – Dr James Wabasha (AU-IBAR)**

Dr James Wabasha introduced the Tsetse and trypanosomiasis (T&T) presentation by highlighting the impact of T&T on health and welfare of humans and livestock in 37 African Member States. He further informed the meeting that T&T problem has been identified as major constraints to livestock development in the sub-humid and humid areas of sub-Saharan Africa in the framework for mainstreaming livestock in the CAADP pillars.

He informed the meeting that the International Scientific Council for Trypanosomiasis Research and Control (ISCTRC) and the Programme against African trypanosomiasis (PAAT) – an inter-Agency of FAO/AU-IBAR/IAEA/WHO are key platforms for the coordination and harmonisation of T&T activities. Dr Wabasha indicated that AU-IBAR and FAO are tackling the T&T problem in collaboration with PATTEC and other partners within the framework of PAAT and the concept of integrated T&T control in the context of sustainable agriculture and rural development and not in isolation from other TADs initiatives and /or animal health actions was being advocated.

He highlighted some of recent events including the holding of the 35th ISCTRC Executive Committee meeting in Bamako (Mali) from 30 November to 1 December 2010 and the PAAT meeting which was held on 26–27 January 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where the development of a strategic framework for PAAT was agreed upon which will see inclusion of other stakeholders such as PATTEC, ILRI, ICIPE and CIRDES.

He informed the meeting that AU-IBAR and FAO are willing to provide AfDB with technical assistance in the formulation of field T&T interventions such as project documents. He informed the meeting about planned activities as follows: AU-IBAR will convene the 31st ISCTRC General Conference and 36th ISCTRC Executive meeting in Bamako, Mali on 12–16 September 2011; PAAT will develop a framework which sets out the Mission and Vision of re-invigorated PAAT, its development goals, objectives and memberships; PAAT to convene a meeting of the PAAT Secretariat in September 2011, Bamako, Mali.

He concluded his presentation by highlighting issues that may be considered in the recommendations:

- The GF-TADs platform to serve as an amplifying and/or advocacy forum sensitising national and regional technical and political institutions about the impact of T&T on sub-Saharan African livestock-agriculture development;



- Partners to consolidate and intensify action and inputs (Financial and technical) in support of tsetse and trypanosomiasis control and eradication programmes; and
- Organisation of a partner's Conference to mobilize resources for affected African countries, which are now involved or plan to be involved in efforts to control and eradicate tsetse and trypanosomiasis.

Discussion:

Some participants indicated that there was various projects with different strategies related to T&T and that a harmonised approach should be developed in order to ensure the efficacy of the fight against that disease. There has been reference made on previous programs related to that disease and it has been indicated that effort should be made to ensure that lesson learnt from previous programmes be taken into consideration. While some participants were asking for a better involvement of the GF-TADs in relation to T&T, it has been reminded that, as there were other fora to address T&T, it has been decided that the GF-TADs would basically be only an information platform for that disease.

**2.6. Rift Valley Fever (RVF) – Dr Peter de Leeuw (FAO)**

Dr Peter de Leeuw reminded the unusual recent RVF outbreak in Mauritania and the actions undertaken by the Crisis Management Centre - Animal Health. He also informed the meeting of the outcomes of a recent GF-TADs technical workshop in Rome where a new generation of RVF vaccines was reviewed. A new modified live virus vaccine has already been registered in South Africa and other candidate vaccines are in the pipe line. These include also vector-based RVF vaccines, some of which may result in a multivalent small ruminant vaccine. During the workshop, the safety, efficacy and practical requirements for RVF vaccines in endemic as well as in hitherto free areas were discussed. In addition, attention was drawn to the difficulties that may lie ahead for a candidate RVF strain to reach market stage due to limited commercial prospects. A full meeting report will be published on the FAO website shortly.

**2.7. Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) – Dr Tabitha Kimani (FAO)**

Dr Tabitha Kimani reminded that Peste des Petites Ruminants (PPR) is endemic in several West, Central and Eastern Africa countries. During the year 2010, the FAO has developed a sub-regional TCP project on «Technical assistance for the prevention and control of the PPR in the Maghreb Arab» and FAO CMC risk assessment mission was carried out in September 2010 in Tanzania and the Government has been assisted in developing an action plan to control an increase in outbreaks of Peste des Petits Ruminant (PPR).

AU-IBAR through VACNADA project supported 12 countries (Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Uganda) with a total of 11,871,700 doses of vaccine. Surveillance was also undertaken in Malawi and Zambia through that project.

Through LEISOM project, AU-IBAR vaccinated 1,262,887 sheep and goats against PPR, contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP) and sheep and goat pox in Somalia. The vaccination is still on-going with a total of 2.5 million doses of PPR vaccine provided for Somalia.

AU-IBAR in collaboration with ILRI organized a workshop for CVOs and RECs (EAC, IGAD and SADC) on 17 November 2010 to develop the foundation for a coordinated progressive control programme to mitigate the impact of PPR and to promote the development of a fully validated thermostable PPR vaccine utilizing available technologies and strategies for the sustainable delivery of the vaccine. In addition, the pan-African strategy for the progressive control of PPR has been published in the *Bulletin of Animal Health and Production in Africa* Vol. 58 (3) pp 193-200.

In term of forthcoming activities AU-IBAR will continue vaccination in VACNADA and LEISOM participating countries and continue the AU-IBAR and ILRI collaboration in the development of thermostable PPR vaccine and strategies for sustainable vaccine delivery. One of the PPR key issues regarding that disease is the PPR eradication pathway/guidelines to be formulated and shared with member states for adoption and the promotion and adoption of the Pan African Strategy for the Progressive Control of PPR (Pan African PPR Strategy). It is thus suggested that a PPR pathway be developed and adopted. Also there should be sensitization of governments and stakeholders to the importance of PPR and the risks of spread to new countries and region and the model of Rinderpest eradication programme should be taken into account. The development and monitoring of global and regional strategies and road maps (notably regional approaches for epidemiosurveillance and vaccination), following a similar approach currently being developed for FMD should be considered. Studies on the disease understanding epidemiology/ecology in the context of the socio-economic and farming systems dimensions (holistic approach and optimized intervention) should be improved. Preventive measures such as vaccination should be promoted and supported.

#### Discussions:

The discussions highlighted that the control of PPR is essentially linked to vaccination. The lack of cooperation and coordination between stakeholders regarding this disease was not optimal. AU-PANVAC indicated that it was evaluating the available technologies of the production of thermostable PPR vaccines and that a training course on these technologies would be organized later this year. AU-PANVAC expressed that it took all the necessary measures to safeguard all Rinderpest virus containing materials and indicated that, with the support of FAO, all Rinderpest virus containing materials will be sent to AU-PANVAC, based on a developed ownership agreement with AU Member States.

#### **2.8. African swine fever (ASF) – Dr Hiver Boussini (AU-IBAR) and Dr Sam Okuthe (ECTAD-FAO)**

The presenters first highlighted the fact that African Swine Fever (ASF) appears for the first time in the agenda of GF-TADs. ASF, one of the most dreaded epidemic diseases of pigs and one of the re-emerging TADs in Africa with heavy economic losses, is among the priority diseases for all African regions. The aspects at stake are lack or inadequate preparedness and/or contingency plans in most countries, the poor biosecurity in most small scale pig production and marketing systems, the insufficient enforcement of control measures, the lack of compensation scheme, the lack of lab capacity and, the trade and pig meat consumption mode.

The different activities undertaken recently included assessment studies by FAO in Kenya, Burkina Faso, Congo/Brazzaville, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Democratic Republic of Congo through a TCP which results will be shared with other organizations that include AU-IBAR

and OIE. Also there will be a technical assistance to assess ASF epidemiological situation in Chad by AU-IBAR and evaluate the control measures taken for an effective control of the disease with the view to formulating an effective control/eradication strategy and the accompanying project proposal.

In terms of upcoming activities, a joint AU-IBAR/FAO regional workshop is planned on 18-20 April 2011 in Chad to develop ASF control strategy and key components for project formulation and potential sources of funding in Central Africa and similar workshops will be held in other sub-regions where ASF is a problem (West, East and Southern Africa) in 2011.

## **2.9. Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) – Dr Samuel Wakhusama (AU-IBAR)**

Dr Samuel Wakhusama first provided some statistic regarding the epidemiological situation of CBPP in Africa. He then explained that, in the year 2010, AU-IBAR with its partners through the Vaccines for the Control of Neglected Animal Diseases in Africa (VACNADA) Project provided support to a number of African laboratories (NVI–Ethiopia, LANAVET–Cameroon, KARI–Kenya, LCV–Mali and CVL–Zambia) to perform a series of CBPP vaccine evaluations. The organization also supported vaccination in three SADC countries (Namibia, Tanzania and Zambia) and carried out market surveys on vaccination needs in Ethiopia, Kenya and Southern Africa. Vaccination activities will continue in year 2011. Dr Wakhusama concluded by suggesting that, in order to enhance the control of CBPP, there should be a strengthened coordination among all stakeholders both at continental and regional level to ensure efficient prevention and control programmes in infected countries. Also, under the umbrella of GF-TADs for Africa, a meeting of experts to discuss on the way forward in the control of CBPP in Africa should be convened. Then, the establishment of a trust fund as a long-term mechanism for supporting research and control CBPP and other endemic TADs should be considered. Finally, RECs should be actively involved in the control of CBPP and other TADs.

### Discussion:

The discussion reiterated the need to strengthen the collaboration between institutions. A participant highlighted the fact that the efforts have been done in order to improve the coordination regarding TADs within ECOWAS. Some participants indicated that CBPP was still a neglected disease and that funding was necessary to address challenges related to that disease.

## **2.10 Rabies – Dr Antoine Maillard (OIE)**

Dr Antoine Maillard reported that underreporting of rabies is a major concern for the WHO and the OIE. The true human incidence of rabies is probably highly under-estimated due to the fact that the high number of post-exposure treatments most of the time contrast with the low human apparent incidence of the disease. This low incidence is likely to be related to under-reporting problems rather than to the efficiency of control measures. The animal incidence is also underestimated, because of the absence of notification for some countries. That is why the OIE encourages countries to include rabies (OIE-listed disease) within national legislation as compulsory notifiable disease so to facilitate notification of outbreaks (in domestic animals and wildlife), to perform rabies surveillance with systematic investigation of suspicions, or dead animals, and laboratory confirmation and to

notify to the OIE and to take advantage of the OIE Twinning programme which aims at enhancing diagnostic capability.

Regarding rabies control programmes, he reiterated that the OIE promotes the reinforcement of the governance of veterinary services (through OIE PVS Pathway) and other supporting institutions so as to control zoonosis at the animal source taking into account that the control of human rabies is first a veterinary problem. The OIE underlines that consistent rabies control programmes need long term commitment and resources and rely on sound inter-sectorial collaborations (ministries, public and animal health services, environmental agencies, police, customs, local authorities, and the greater public). Regarding rabies control programmes, immunization of animals against rabies remains the method of choice but needs accompanying measures. As a conclusion, Dr Maillard stated that only a part of financial resources used to treat people after a dog bite would allow year after year national veterinary services to eradicate dog rabies and stop virtually occurrence of human cases.

#### Discussion:

The discussion indicated that one of the challenges encountered by countries in their fight against rabies is the weak collaboration between public health authorities and veterinary services. Should this collaboration be strengthened, the funding could be facilitated, particularly by using funds dedicated to human health to fight the disease at the animal source. A participant indicated that the avian influenza crisis have had positive outcomes by demonstrating that public health animal health should not be dissociated. The OIE Global Conference on Rabies Control should be the opportunity to promote collaboration between public and animal health authorities. Participants indicated that the GF-TADs platform should be used in order to convince donors that a sustainable support is crucial for fighting rabies.

### **Session 3: Reporting on transversal topics**

#### **3.1. One Health – Dr Peter de Leeuw (FAO)**

Dr Peter de Leeuw summarized the “One Health” approach of FAO’s Animal Production and Health division as recently laid down in a Strategic Action Plan 2011-2015. The main goal of the Action Plan is to establish a robust global animal health system that effectively manages major animal health risks, paying attention to the animal-human-ecosystem interface and placing disease dynamics in the broader context of agriculture and socio-economic development and environmental sustainability. The Action Plan recognizes seven strategic areas or work, five technical areas and three functional areas. The Action Plan is technically accepted by the FAO Program Committee, but funding is pending. The Action Plan provides input for a FAO-wide Action Plan and for discussions with WHO and OIE on joint approaches.

#### Discussion:

It has been proposed to include public health and environment stakeholders in the GF-TADs as they are important actors when it comes to the One Health concept.

### **3.2. Good governance of Veterinary Services (OIE PVS Pathway) – Dr Daniel Bourzat (OIE)**

Dr Daniel Bourzat indicated that the improvement national Veterinary Services Governance has reached its cruising speed after that most of the 53 countries in Africa has gone through the first step of the OIE PVS Pathway (49 countries). A significant number of countries are involved in the preparation of strategic plan for the national Veterinary Services based on the OIE PVS Gap Analysis mission's outputs. This step is fully relayed by the donor communities.

Equally important, the OIE Veterinary Legislation Support Programme gained interest in Africa with 17 countries already engaged in this "treatment" phase of the OIE PVS Pathway. After the 1st Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation held in Tunisia in December 2010, the training of veterinary legislation experts has been stepped up and will expedite the mobilization of experts able to answer to this increasing demand.

These capacity building activities have been developed in Africa through the EU SANCO funded "Better Training for Safer Food" 'BTSF' programme which will end in December 2011. The EU Governance programme, will take over on the 'BTSF' programme.

#### Discussion:

During the discussion, it has been highlighted that, following their OIE PVS Evaluation and Gap analysis missions, Mauritania and Cameroon were already quite advanced in looking for funding through round tables organised with donors. Also, it has been reminded that the OIE PVS Evaluation can be used as a self-assessment and to that end, the mission undertaken by the OIE under the OIE PVS Pathway can be considered as training to beneficiaries. It has been agreed that the harmonization at regional level and especially at RECs level was fundamental. As an example, the ECOWAS requested support in order to optimise the harmonization the national legislation and a report has been already developed. The OIE indicated that the mandate of the organisation was not the implementation of development program as this was the mandate of other organisations such as the FAO and the AU-IBAR. However, the OIE is totally involved in helping countries in their thinking process regarding the improvement of their Veterinary Services. This can be done by the organisation of round tables with donors after the PVS Gap analysis has been completed.

### **3.3. Integrated Regional Coordination Mechanism (IRCM) – Dr Vittorio Cagnolati (AU-IBAR)**

After illustrating the methodology for the formulation of the IRCM, an initiative of the African Union, AU-IBAR and the DSA undertook, in partnership with FAO, OIE and WHO, the main results of the stock taking exercise in the eight RECs (CEN-SAD, COMESA, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC and UMA) were presented by Dr Vittorio Cagnolati. This was emerging from the exercise demonstrating that the mandate, organizational structures, decision making systems of the RECs, offer unique opportunities for the coordination and harmonization of measures for the prevention and progressive control of TADs and zoonoses. Most executive organs of RECs have already established sectorial coordination mechanisms and, in some cases specific institutions to coordinate public health issues, such as WAHO in the ECOWAS region. However, inter-sectorial collaboration is still problematic in most RECs, knowledge management still weak in most RECs, health communication has not taken root at a strategic level and it is either disease or absent at

regional level. Networking (laboratory, epidemio-surveillance and communication) is largely project based, without most of the time adequate institutional domiciliation and sustainability. On the basis of the stock taking exercise an IRCM is proposed which it is articulated along seven main areas:

1. sectoral coordination (Public Health and Animal Health, comprising domestic animals and wildlife;
2. inter-sectoral collaboration;
3. knowledge management;
4. communication;
5. inter-REC coordination;
6. continental Coordination; and
7. partnership.

Relevant cross cutting issues, gender and environmental management were also identified.

#### **3.4. Veterinary Public Health – Dr Cheikh Ly (FAO)**

Dr Cheikh Ly explained that the FAO Veterinary Public Health networks have had a considerably increase in the number of subscribers for weekly basis information ranging from zoonoses and food-borne disease outbreaks (not duplicating ProMed). Therefore the VPH network for Africa is a tool that can be readily used by GF-TADs for Africa. <http://www.fao.org/AG/AGAINFO/programmes/en/vph/Networks.html>. An FAO project is in preparation on Veterinary Public Health (VPH) continuing professional development (CPD) and post-qualification capacity building in order to strengthen VPH services and systems as a result of the enhancement of technical and other non-technical skills and capacities of veterinarians, veterinary para-professionals and other professionals involved in veterinary public health service delivery.

#### **3.5. Biosecurity – Dr Emmanuelle Guerne-Bleich (FAO)**

Dr Emmanuelle Guerne-Bleich emphasized on the importance to apply biosecurity measures in the context of preventing and fighting animal diseases such as TADs. She highlighted that simple measures can be really efficient. However, most of the time it is difficult to implement efficient measures, especially in low income operations. In order to support the implementation of biosecurity measures, it is suggested to undertake cost/benefit studies. The presenter also presented some FAO activities related to biosecurity.

##### Discussion:

A participant raised concerns regarding the movement of animals and humans during political conflicts. This represents a breach in any biosecurity measures that neighbouring countries would put in place. Some mechanisms should be developed in order to address these situations.

### **3.6. Communication – Dr François Caya (OIE) and Dr Dominic Omolo (FAO)**

Dr François Caya explained that the OIE undertook concrete actions on communication related to animal health starting in 2001 following a resolution adopted by its Members. Since then, the OIE developed priority missions related to communication based on the Strategic Plan of the organisation. Among those activities, the OIE undertook since 2007 regional seminars on communication. Since early 2011, the OIE invited its Delegated to nominate Communication OIE National Focal Point in order to support the work of the Delegates in their responsibilities related to communication of animal health issues. Dr Caya also informed the audience that an OIE *Code* chapter on communication would be proposed for adoption to Members in Mai 2011.

Dr Dominic Omolo reminded that the communication campaigns have been crucial during the avian influenza crisis but since then, they have been considerably reduced. The importance of communication in animal health issues should not be underestimated, even in “peace” time. Regarding Rinderpest, he suggested that communication strategy be maintained in order to maintain the level of awareness of all stakeholders.

## **Session 4: International and regional organisations portfolios**

### **4.1. World Bank – Dr Stéphane Forman (WB)**

Dr Stéphane Forman first started by getting back on some issues that have discussed since the beginning of the meeting. He then provided the World Bank perspective regarding the action undertaken by this organisation for major diseases. Regarding avian influenza (H5N1 HPAI), he explained that, although there was only Egypt that was reporting the disease in Africa, other regions of the world were still facing that disease. As the crisis related to that disease lasts for more many years, there is a fatigue of the donors against which countries have to fight by being creative in attracting donors. Regarding FMD, Dr Forman listed some activities undertaken by the WB in Africa. He explained that those activities were mainly undertaken at country level and mainly targeted food security. The World Bank will work in collaboration with the OIE and the FAO in order to define the support it can bring to the FMD global strategy to be developed. Related to this issue, he suggested that more analytical work be done in Africa in order to better define the needs related to that disease.

On a more global perspective, Dr Forman emphasised on the importance of the activities implemented by the different animal health stakeholders in Africa. Among others, he recognised the crucial work conducted by the CVOs in improving the Veterinary Services in their respective countries. He reiterated the recognition of the OIE PVS Pathway by the World Bank by indicating that this is a good starting point to any sustainable animal health related funding initiative. He finally informed that the World Bank was working at global level on a strategy for improving veterinary education worldwide.

**Day 2****Session 4: International and regional organisations portfolios (Contd)****4.2. Regional Economic Communities (RECs)**

COMESA (Common market for Eastern and Southern Africa). Mr Shamseldin Salim briefly explained that there are currently four projects related to pastoralism in Eastern Africa. He also announced that a special livestock unit will be created at COMESA and that a livestock specialist will be recruited in the framework of this unit.

ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States). Dr Viviane Iwar informed that the regional agriculture development programme was presented last year. It includes three programmes with a livestock component. A plan to transform and add value of livestock is ready for implementation. The plan is made of four components dealing with transhumance, meat and dairy, and livestock trade. The 1st Regional Veterinary Committee will be held in April 2011. As far as regional animal health centre (RAHC) is concerned, the process to establish a specialised body in ECOWAS is a long process which ends with an administrative and finance committee which sits once a year, then the council of ministers, then the heads of states. In summary, the regional animal health centre in Bamako has to be approved by the council of ministers before its integration inside ECOWAS. The speaker concluded by saying that there was an excellent collaboration with IBAR which facilitates the implementation of a lot of projects.

CEBEVIRHA (Commission économique du bétail, de la viande et des ressources halieutiques). Dr Liman Mohama explained that the fight against TADs was part of the work plan of CEBEVIRHA. The organization is working on the harmonization of statistical data gathered through epidemiological surveillance. The CEBEVIRHA also work of optimizing the activities of some networks. When it comes to the structuring the producers, Dr Mohama noted the implementation of the “inter-profession in aviculture” and announced that the same structure was under development for the bovine sector. He finally expressed his concerns related to the lack of information regarding the AU-IBAR actions regarding livestock as a source of subsistence and stressed for getting precisions on this matter at the next meeting of the GF-TADs regional steering committee.

**Discussion:**

Some participants requested information related to the interaction between the different RECs especially because there is overlap regarding the countries represented. The representatives of the RECs explained that all efforts were made to avoid duplication of the work.

**4.3. Ecole Inter Etats des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires de Dakar (EISMV) – Prof. Yalacé Kaboret**

Prof. Kaboret started by reminding some crucial dates and statistics related to the EISMV. He highlighted that over 1,300 veterinarians from 16 countries graduated from this school since its creation in 1968. There are three master degree programs (animal production, veterinary public health and food quality) that can take up to 15 students each per year. Regarding research, there is some collaboration with African and international institutes.



Most of the research works undertaken by the EISMV target animal health, artificial insemination, and animal feed. He finally explained that some evaluation was made in order to optimize the funding of this institution.

Discussion:

A participant added some pertinent information related to the EISMV and indicated that this institution developed a course for official veterinarians in line with OIE standards, thus supporting the strengthening of veterinary services governance. This programme is provided in the framework of a partnership between Lyon veterinary school with financial support from OIE and others such as the veterinary school in Morocco. It has been indicated that Africa is represented in the OIE ad hoc group on veterinary education through the presence of the EISMV. This ad hoc group is working on the development of a basic curriculum that veterinary schools should provide to new veterinarians. The OIE is in discussion with the UNESCO in order to expand its network in veterinary education. The importance of ensuring an access to veterinary education in English in Africa has been highlighted. Finally, in order to replace veterinarians going on retirement, the importance of succession planning has been stressed and some suggestions such as twinning of veterinary school, has been made to address this important issue.

## **Session 5: Reporting on GF-TADs tools achievements in Africa**

### **5.1. Regional Animal Health Centres (RAHC) – Dr Bouna Diop (FAO)**

African continent has four RAHCs. Those RAHCs represent a joint initiative between. They are located in the following countries: Mali (Bamako) for Central and Western African region, Kenya (Nairobi) for Eastern Africa, Gaborone (Botswana) for Southern Africa, and Tunis (Tunisia) for Northern Africa. The new developments are as follows:

- RAHC Bamako (Mali): a MOU was prepared by OIE in order to manage the transitional period. The ECOWAS Council of Ministers in Charge of Livestock meeting took place in Bamako on 10 March 2011. AU-IBAR staff has been reduced with the closure of SPINAP project in December 2010
- RAHC Nairobi (Kenya): there is a new office for the OIE Sub regional Representation out of AU-IBAR main office where FAO/ECTAD is located.
- RAHC Gaborone (Botswana): the number of OIE staff increased and AU-IBAR staff reduced with the closure of SPINAP project.

The challenges included the elaboration of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which would clarify the strategy, the objectives, the means and the way the three institutions would work together within RAHC while ensuring coordination with others animal health partners.

Discussion:

The discussion started with some participants questioning the mandate of the RAHCs dedicated only to animal health but not on livestock. Participants also raised concerns regarding the creation of new RAHCs taking into account the financial issues encountered in the existing ones.

The OIE expressed its wish that RAHCs be sustained in Africa and in the other regions. Indeed, there are some issues, but the first years of this kind of platform is always difficult, especially when there are many partners. The OIE is positive regarding the future of the RAHCs but recognizes the need to better work together for their success. AU-IBAR expressed its wish to strengthen the collaboration of the RAHCs with the RECs while ensuring mandates be respected. AU-IBAR also indicated some concerns regarding the RAHC operating processes. While roles and responsibilities were questioned, the OIE reiterated that, as RAHCs are considered as mechanisms, there is no need to identify a responsible at global level. Issues have to be managed at local level as much as possible. When needed, the directors general from AU-IBAR, FAO and OIE can meet as it has been the case over the past year.

It has been reminded that the RAHCs concept has been validated by the three partners in 2006. RAHCs are not considered as institutions but they essentially represent a consultation platform in order to promote synergy between partners. The objective is to work together on common animal health issues while ensuring that each partner stay within its mandate. Even with the clarification brought by each partners, it has been suggested to clarify the RAHCs concept at the next GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee Meeting.

## **5.2. Regional Networks – Dr Bouna Diop (FAO)**

The presentation of Dr Bouna Diop focused on the update of the existing networks in Africa and others regional networks. In term of main achievements, North Africa undertook the organisation of three Joint Permanent Committee meetings in collaboration with OIE to approve annual Action Plan and to define the ToRs of the different institutional parts of the REMESA in the four thematic sub-networks.

In west and central, eastern and southern Africa, a lot of activities have been implemented for the epidemiological, laboratory, communication and socio-economic networks through training, workshops and various meetings. Through the ALive feasibility study recommendations, AU-IBAR has undertaken road map and formulation of a budgeted action plan/road map for strengthening the networks for controlling TADs and zoonoses in four identified RECs and its integration in the continental framework of disease management in West Central, Southern and Eastern Africa. The zoo-sanitary situation in Central African countries compare to others is weak. Financial support to CEBEVIRHA to recruit national consultants in 9 countries to assess their country zoo-sanitary situation and report during the regional meeting has been requested. It is foreseen that an international consultant will be recruited to review all these national reports and consolidate for strengthening networks.

In term of forthcoming activities, several meetings, workshops, training have been planned to mostly strengthen epidemiosurveillance, laboratory, and communication capacities within the different regions. The challenges included advocacy for real ownership of networks by countries, define a legal framework for networks. The way forward focused on improvement of the institutional environment at national and regional levels to provide effective and efficient animal health services in Africa including activities aiming to strengthen the Regional Networks through Veterinary Governance programme in Africa and with EPT / IDENTIFY project, laboratory mapping exercise, definition of a regional networking strategy based on existing activities, improvement of for public-private

partnership for sustainable lab funding and EPT/RESPOND trainings in WILD (Wildlife Livestock Disease surveillance) in line with the One Health approach.

### **5.3. GLEWS – OFFLU – CMC-AH – Dr Peter de Leeuw (FAO)**

Dr Peter de Leeuw gave an overview of the activities of the joint GF-TADs tools GLEWS, CMC-AH and OFFLU during the past year. GLEWS remains an important platform for FAO, WHO and OIE to share each other's resources to track and verify animal disease information to improve the information contained in the databases of the three organisations. Regionally based platforms could be part of the system if funds were available, but even the funding for GLEWS itself still has to be renewed in the near future. CMC-AH carried out missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mauritania, Tanzania and Togo and updated the "Guide on good emergency practices". OFFLU conducted its third annual technical meeting with experts from Africa attending. Activities to prepare standard H5 antisera for international use are ongoing. Relationships with WHO were intensified, including an agreed role in the human influenza strain selection process.

### **5.4. ARIS 2 interoperability with WAHIS and other animal health information systems – Dr Dickens Chibeu (AU-IBAR)**

Dr Dickens Chibeu explained that, based on the lessons learnt from the first version of ARIS, AU IBAR has embarked in the development of the second version of the system known as ARIS 2, which will be an open source system. The overall objective of the ARIS 2 is to enhance the information and knowledge management capacity of AU-IBAR and MS to swiftly respond to disease emergencies and to properly plan interventions in animal production, marketing and trade. The 8th AU Livestock Ministers' Conference in May 2010 recommended that the Animal Resources Information System being developed by AU-IBAR be interoperable with all other animal resources information systems used on the continent, namely WAHIS, TADInfo and LIMS. AU-IBAR has therefore engaged the services of a consultancy firm to design and develop the application and at one time it became imperative to consult with main partners on technical issues to be addressed to enhance interoperability and agree/adopt a benchmark for interoperation.

The activities conducted included workshop on March 2011 to consult main partners (OIE , FAO and SADC) on technical issues, and adopt a benchmark for interoperation. The main achievements realized are identification of standards for data exchange between ARIS and WAHIS and harmonization of data in the AU-IBAR reporting form that is relevant to the OIE reporting system.

The forthcoming activities will cover the development of AU-IBAR list of priority diseases and share with OIE and FAO, data collection forms for the countries and transfer forms for OIE to be finalized by AU-IBAR, exchange maps of African Member States (of first administrative division) between OIE and AU-IBAR to verify their compatibility and OIE will provide XML schema for data transfer from ARIS 2 to WAHIS.

## **Session 6: What is next? – All participants**

After an open discussion on the different issues raised during the meeting, the participants agreed on recommendations (See Annex 1).

**SIXTH STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE GF-TADS FOR AFRICA (SC6)****4–5 April 2011 – Nairobi, Kenya****RECOMMENDATIONS**

## CONSIDERING:

1. The recommendations of the 3rd GF-TADS Global Steering Committee (GSC3) and particularly Recommendation 8 related to the GF-TADS five-year Strategic Plan to be developed by December 2011;
2. That GF-TADS Africa plan should be in line with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP);
3. The general consensus among participants that recommendations of the Steering Committee of the GF-TADS for Africa should target prioritized diseases and their implementation be supported;
4. The upcoming declaration of Rinderpest eradication at global level and the need to actively undertake the post eradication phase;
5. The opportunity of the adoption of new provisions in the OIE *Terrestrial Code* Chapter on Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) related to the endorsement by the OIE of official control programmes for FMD establishing a link between the official disease status recognition and the Progressive Control Pathway (PCP) self-assessment tool;
6. The work being done jointly by FAO and the OIE on the development of the Global FMD Control Strategy;
7. The GF-TADS Working Group on PPR (Peste des petits ruminants) to be jointly set up by FAO and the OIE, in collaboration with AU-IBAR;
8. The need for concrete actions on the “One Health” approach;
9. That donors require strong basis to justify the investment being made in the animal health sectors;
10. That Veterinary Services are global public good and that reinforcing their governance is crucial for animal health, food safety and food security, while ensuring safer trade of animals and animals products in and from Africa;
11. The current epidemiological situation of TADS in Africa and recognizing the need to improve surveillance systems in order to address the gaps in the epidemiological knowledge of those diseases in Africa;
12. That the Steering Committee of the GF-TADS for Africa encourage the work being done by AU-IBAR in the implementation of a Rinderpest exit strategy;

13. The need expressed by participants for a more inclusive membership within the GF-TADs; and
14. The uncertainties related to funding of GF-TADs Africa;

THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE GF-TADs FOR AFRICA RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. The AU-IBAR, FAO and the OIE, in the framework of GF-TADs for Africa, promote the elaboration of integrated regional strategies for high impact diseases and zoonoses (Action lead by AU-IBAR in close partnership with OIE and FAO);
2. The FAO and the OIE, with the support of other regional organisations, ensure follow-up to countries answer to the Rinderpest virus sequestration questionnaire as soon as possible in order to engage properly the post eradication phase and that the main outcomes of the answer to those questionnaires be shared with relevant stakeholders (Action lead by FAO in close partnership with OIE);
3. AU-PANVAC ensure a proper Rinderpest virus sequestration on behalf of all African countries;
4. AU-IBAR continue playing its coordinating and advocacy role, including resources mobilization, in the context of Rinderpest exit strategy, among other issues;
5. The OIE explore the feasibility to include a critical competency supporting the Rinderpest post-eradication effort within the OIE PVS Evaluation tool;
6. The GF-TADs Working Group on FMD promote the use of the Progressive Control Pathway (PCP) self-assessment tool for FMD control in African countries by assisting in the development of regional road maps (Action jointly lead by OIE and FAO);
7. The GF-TADs Working Group on FMD promote the organisation, by relevant organisations, of two (2) regional FMD meetings in East and West Africa as a follow-up to the Nairobi I meeting (Action lead by FAO in close partnership with OIE );
8. The GF-TADs Working Group on FMD ensure that regional perspectives related to the reality of FMD control in Africa be reflected in the work done by this Working Group, particularly those related to wildlife reservoir, farming systems, movement of animals and animal products linked to geo-political situation (Action jointly lead by OIE and FAO);
9. The AU-IBAR, FAO and OIE jointly undertake analytical studies in order to assess the economic impact of high impact diseases, in particular FMD and Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) (Action lead by OIE);
10. Work in progress on the follow-up to the SC5 Recommendation 3 on PPR be continued and be supported by a meeting of the major international and technical organisations to discuss and align current ideas and strategies on PPR control (Action lead by AU-IBAR);

11. Work in progress on the follow-up Recommendation 6 on Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) during the SC5 be continued with an emphasis on prevention and control activities for that disease (Action lead by AU-IBAR);
12. In the context of the forthcoming first Global Conference on Rabies, OIE and other animal health stakeholders take the opportunity to trigger greater collaboration with public health authorities at regional level to ensure that funding be directed at controlling the disease at its animal source (Action lead by OIE);
13. The OIE continue encouraging African countries to undertake the PVS Pathway and also to take ownership of its outcomes in order to improve the good governance of their Veterinary Services and to ease access to funding both internally and externally in that perspective;
14. The preparedness, prevention and control of TADs and zoonoses at RECs level be strengthened through the Integrated Regional Coordination Mechanism (IRCM) (Action lead by AU-IBAR in close partnership with OIE and FAO); and,
15. Proposition for inclusion of other relevant animal health stakeholders as members or observers be presented for approval at the next GF-TADs steering committee for Africa (Action lead by OIE jointly with FAO).