

88 SG/11B

Reports
**of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions
held during the 88th General Session**
Paris, 24 May 2021

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

Paris, 24 May 2021

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met by videoconference on 24 May 2021 at 1:00 p.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by up to 101 participants, including Delegates and observers from 42 Members of the Commission, and representatives from 9 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Central African Rep.,-Congo (Rep. of the ~), Congo (Dem. Rep. of the ~), Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

International/regional organisations: AU-IBAR¹, CVA², ECOWAS³, ICFAW⁴, ICIPE⁵, ICRC⁶, IEC⁷, UNODA⁸, WAEMU⁹.

Observers: Chairpersons and members of the OIE Biological Standards Commission and the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

The meeting was chaired by Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa and OIE Delegate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo accompanied by Dr Karim Tounkara, OIE Regional Representative for Africa.

¹ AU-IBAR: African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

² CVA: Commonwealth Veterinary Association

³ ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States

⁴ ICFAW: International Coalition for Animal Welfare

⁵ ICIPE: International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology

⁶ ICRC: International Committee of the Red Cross

⁷ IEC: International Egg Commission

⁸ UNODA: United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

⁹ WAEMU: West African Economic and Monetary Union

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted. A short video then paid tribute to OIE Delegates, experts and staff who passed away since the last Regional Commission Conference in February 2019.

2. Outcomes of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held by videoconference from 9 to 11 February 2021

Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela briefly presented the outcomes of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held from 9 to 11 February 2021 (by Zoom) and to which a total of 175 participants attended, including OIE Delegates and/or representatives from 52 Members of the region and representatives from regional and international organisations, as well as representatives of regional key partners and donors.

Dr N'lemba Mabela quickly commented the agenda of the Conference highlighting some of the topics presented. All detailed information is available in the report of the Conference in the Regional website.

3. Confirmation of the venue of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2023

Dr Letlhogile Modisa, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of Botswana, reiterated his country's offer to host the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in February 2023. Exact dates and venue will be defined at a later stage in coordination with the OIE Director General.

4. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item (with questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa:

“Eradication of PPR: results and perspectives”

This selection was made following a short Zoom poll, out of a shortlist of 6 topics, submitted earlier by Tchad, Burkina Faso, Niger and Gabon.

5. Proposal of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the OIE through various means (*Scientific and Technical Review, Bulletin, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting*)

The Regional Commission proposed the following three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the OIE through various means. This selection was made following a short Zoom poll, out of a shortlist of 6 pre-selected topics, also voted by OIE Members in April:

- Antimicrobial resistance, antimicrobial use
- Financing of veterinary services, public – private partnerships
- One Health and zoonotic diseases, zoonotic spill-overs from wildlife (reservoirs)

6. PVS Pathway External Evaluation and the next steps

Dr Barbara Alessandrini, Head of the Capacity-Building Department, briefly commented on the PVS external evaluation carried out in 2020 to assess the relevance of the programme to Members, its effectiveness, impact, and opportunities for improvement. She underlined that, the evaluation showed that PVS was a story of success, but also of frustration as Members were set for improvement through the PVS, but it was difficult to contextualise it, while the wealth of PVS data was not adequately used.

She also commented on the recommendations of the evaluation which provided inputs on increasing uptake, respect of the core principles, connection to other OIE functions, enhancing impact, and programme evolution.

Dr Alessandrini concluded by informing that the OIE response consisted in a mid-term strategy crossing through all the pathway steps, investing on new technologies and digitalization, aiming at increasing and facilitating access and participation in the programme activities, data use and sharing, needs and impact assessment, and at generating new synergies with the other OIE and partners' programmes.

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

7. Elections for Specialist Commissions

Dr Matthew Stone, Deputy Director General "International Standards and Science", provided a brief update on the OIE's work to support OIE Specialist Commissions performance through a high-quality Common Secretariat driving standardised processes, as well as the implementation of a Performance Management Framework focused on continuous improvement and partnership, along with the evaluation of performance of all members of each Commission approaching the end of their term. He highlighted the open call and evaluation of candidates for election to the Specialist Commissions, being only the second time that OIE had made such a call, and briefed the Regional Commissions on how the voting for the elections would be performed on Friday 28 May.

8. Elections of the OIE governance bodies

Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, Deputy Director General "Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities", briefly presented the main aspects of the election process for the OIE governance bodies. He reminded the OIE cycle of elections, pointing out that the 88th General Session provided an opportunity to elect members of the Council and the Bureaux of the Regional Commissions as well as the Specialist Commissions (as already explained by Dr Stone). Dr Dop also provided key details to Delegates regarding the role of the Council and the Members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission in supporting the mandate of the OIE.

He reminded that elections to each governing body will be on Friday 28 May, by secret ballot and using the UK Engage Platform 2, as already explained during the regional trainings on related General Session virtual processes, organised by the OIE Regional Activities and Capacity Building Departments, which took place before the General Session. Drs Mark Schipp (Australia) and Michael Modisane (South Africa), both Council members, were appointed as scrutineers during the elections. In addition, an external legal expert will follow the whole process.

Each Regional Commission was invited to announce its nominations for the new Bureau and the Council immediately after the Regional Commission meeting, together with the final list of selected candidates for the Specialist Commissions.

9. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the OIE Council and the Specialist Commissions

Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane, Past President of the World Assembly of Delegates and Delegate of the Republic of South Africa, chaired the discussions regarding the proposal of candidates to be presented to the World Assembly for election on Friday 28 May. Proposals as follows:

Council:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Daniel Komla Batawui (Togo)

Dr Roland Xolani Dlamini (Eswatini)

Bureau of the Regional Commission:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

President: Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela (Democratic Republic of Congo)

Vice-President: Dr Letlhogile Modisa (Botswana)

Vice-President: Dr Mbargou Lo (Senegal)

Secretary General: Dr Anna Rose Ademun Okurut (Uganda)

Specialist Commissions:

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Prof. Salah Hammami (Tunisia) (proposed as Vice President)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr Kevin Christison (South Africa) (proposed as Member)

Biological Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Prof. Emmanuel Couacy-Hymann (Cote d'Ivoire) (proposed as President)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Baptiste Dungu (South Africa) (proposed as Member)

Dr Misheck Mulumba (Zambia) (proposed as Member)

10. Closing

The meeting officially ended at 3.14 p.m. CEST.

.../Appendix