

89 SG/9

Reports

**of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions
held in the framework of the 89th General Session
16-18 May 2022**

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

16 May 2022

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met by videoconference on 16 May 2022 at 1:00 p.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by up to 114 participants, including Delegates and observers from 31 Members of the Commission, and representatives from 13 International or Regional Organisations:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, Chad, Congo (Rep. of the ~), Congo (Dem. Rep. of the ~), Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, São Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia.

International/regional organisations: AU-IBAR¹, CNVZ², COMESA³, CVA⁴, DG SANTE (EC)⁵, ECOWAS (RAHC)⁶, FAO⁷, ICFAW⁸, IEC⁹, USAID¹⁰, WAEMU¹¹.

Observers: Chairpersons and members of the OIE Biological Standards Commission and the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission, representatives of AFSCAN¹², CIMM¹³, GALVmed¹⁴, GARC¹⁵, ICRC¹⁶, OVR-ARC¹⁷ and World Fish.

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

² CNVZ : Centre national de veille zoonitaire (Tunisia)

³ COMESA : Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa

⁴ CVA: Commonwealth Veterinary Association

⁵ DG SANTE (European Commission) : Directorate General Health and Food Safety Organisation

⁶ ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States

⁷ FAO : United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation

⁸ ICFAW : International Coalition for Animal Welfare

⁹ IEC : International Egg Commission

¹⁰ USAID : United States Agency for International Development

¹¹ WAEMU: West African Economic and Monetary Union

¹² AFSCAN : African Small Companion Animal Network

¹³ CIMM : *Comité International de Médecine Militaire*

¹⁴ GALVmed : Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines

¹⁵ GARC : Global Alliance for Rabies Control

¹⁶ ICRC: International Committee of the Red Cross

¹⁷ OVR-ARC : Onderstepoort Veterinary Research, Agricultural Research Council (South Africa)

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 Toukara, OIE Regional Representative for Africa. He welcomed the participants to the meeting. He stated that COVID-19 had affected many activities and reiterated his recognition for the fact that the OIE had continued to deliver on its mandate by organising events through electronic meetings and that he was looking forward to a physical meeting soon.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

2. Relaunching of GF-TAD Africa

Dr Karim Toukara introduced the Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) for Africa. Dr Patrick Bastiaensen, Regional Programme Officer at the OIE Subregional Representation for Eastern Africa, on behalf of the Regional Secretariat, briefly addressed the relaunching of the Africa chapter of the GF-TADs for Africa after a 7-year hiatus. He reported on the 10th Regional Steering Committee (RSC) meeting held (online) in October 2021, where several important governance documents were endorsed, allowing among others, the launch in March 2022 of the Standing Group of Experts (SGE) on African swine fever (ASF) and the expected launch later in 2022 of the SGE on Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP). The RSC which is currently chaired by the Director of AU-IBAR, will reconvene for its 11th meeting from 21 – 23 June 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya.

3. Launch of the PPR strategy in Africa; AU-IBAR 70th Anniversary and 10 years Rinderpest Eradication

Dr Nick Nwankpa, acting AU-IBAR Director, informed the meeting that AU-IBAR celebrated its 70th Anniversary from 17 to 18 March 2022. This celebration was attended by seven Ministers, former Commissioners of the AUC, AU-IBAR former directors, directors of animal production and veterinary services, RECs, as well as traditional partners such as the OIE, FAO, ILRI, IAEA, and the donor community, notably the European Union. He also mentioned that the Ministers made 'The Nairobi Declaration on the Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants by 2030'. This declaration is significant in the sense that it mirrors the Nairobi declaration that was made in 1948 for rinderpest eradication. The AU-IBAR Anniversary was done concurrently with the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the global eradication of Rinderpest. This is the first time that commemoration of Rinderpest was done at continental level. AU-IBAR played a critical role in coordinating the eradication activities in the African continent, in collaboration with partners that led to the defeat of this dreaded cattle plague. Dr Nwankpa also highlighted some key animal health related events that took place in the recent months.

Finally, he mentioned that AUC has taken the eradication of PPR as a priority policy issue as articulated in the Pan African PPR Strategy for the control and eradication of PPR. The Pan African Programme for the eradication of PPR will be the basis for engaging partners and donor community for eradication of PPR in Africa. He, once again, called upon for the European Union and other development partners to enhance their support and for AU Member States to consolidate their commitment for the eradication of this devastating disease of sheep and goats in Africa. Eradication of PPR will contribute to food security, poverty reduction and resilience of livestock-dependent communities, as well as to economic growth of the countries concerned, thus reducing instability, conflicts and irregular migration from Africa.

The OIE Delegate from Senegal thanked the AU-IBAR for launching the PPR Pan-Africa PPR Eradication Programme (2022-2026). He suggested AU-IBAR to mobilise resources for the implementation of the PPR Strategic Plan in the Region.

4. Organisation of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2023

Dr Letlhogile Oarabile, Delegate of Botswana, confirmed that his country is willing and honoured to host this important regional event and invited all Delegates to attend the conference, which will likely be held in Kasane in February 2023. Exact dates will be soon defined in collaboration with the OIE Director General. He reported that an organising committee will be formed to prepare the Conference and would update the OIE accordingly.

5. Selection of Technical Item II (without 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 (without questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa:

“Elimination of dog-mediated human rabies from Africa by 2030 - national strategies, legal frameworks, tools to track progress”.

6. 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, which came out on top following an earlier survey circulated amongst Delegates in March and again in May:

- Elimination of dog-mediated rabies;
- Eradication of Peste des petits ruminants;
- Concept of Veterinary Services as essential services during disasters or lockdowns.

7. The OIE capacity-building system: from the new normality to a new future. A dialogue with OIE Members on PVS and Training

Ms Barbara Alessandrini, Head of the Capacity Building Department, introduced the evolution of the OIE capacity-building system, the needs it intends to satisfy, and the reasons that are driving this transformative process.

She reminded the participants that a number of factors have changed our lives and influenced our ways to deliver services. Technologies have helped us to overcome last years' challenges, however they cannot replace the value of human relationships.

She informed that the OIE has reflected on its capacity-building system and defined new approaches to better satisfy its Members' needs and provide more impactful services through the PVS Pathway Programme and the Platform for the Training of the Veterinary Services. New methodologies and support programmes, remote and blended options, and digitalisation are the three pillars on which the OIE capacity-building system intends to move from the new normality of the post COVID-19 era to a new future in which flexible and blended approaches are possible, thus optimising the use of human, technical, and financial resources.

Ms Alessandrini concluded by highlighting that a dialogue with Members and partners interested in understanding the new opportunities offered by the PVS programme and the OIE Training Platform and in exploiting these customised opportunities has to be established, to build scalable approaches for a collaborative growth of the Veterinary Services. This is particularly important in the light of the request for more resilient Veterinary Services, recognised by national and regional health systems, to play their role in protecting One Health.

The OIE Delegates from Senegal and Benin thanked the OIE for coming up with various capacity-building programmes. They mentioned that the training of Veterinary Services' personnel is very important to improve Veterinary Services, and animal welfare capacity in the region. They also suggested that OIE should provide training on specific topics and suggested a physical (face-to-face) training in addition to the online training.

8. Barriers to the implementation of OIE Standards on aquatic animals: first results of the survey of national Focal Points for Aquatic Animals

Dr Laure Weber-Vintzel, Programme Manager of the OIE Observatory, shared the first findings of a recent survey of national Focal Points for Aquatic Animals. The objectives were to identify barriers preventing OIE Members from: i) implementing OIE standards on aquatic animal health and welfare, ii) notifying aquatic animal diseases, and iii) using the PVS Pathway for the aquatic animal health services. She thanked the Delegates of the Africa Region for their participation. She pointed out the most important barriers identified in the survey, such as the fact that aquatic animal health is not prioritised by government agencies, which was seen by 54% of the respondents globally, as a blocking barrier for the notification to the OIE. She also highlighted that only 9% of the respondents indicated that Chapter 4.1. of the Aquatic Code, which was adopted at the 88th General Session in 2021, is being fully implemented by them.

Dr Weber-Vintzel concluded by indicating that the report presenting the detailed results of this survey would be available during the second semester of 2022.

The Delegate from South Africa thanked the OIE for the aquatic animal health survey and mentioned the need for increased capacity building on the Region of Africa to improve aquatic animal health.

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

9. Proposal of a Member of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Africa as Vice-President

Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela reminded participants that the Delegate of Botswana had stepped down, leaving vacant his position as Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, which required a partial election to be held.

Following a discussion involving all Delegates present in the meeting, Dr Albertina Shilongo, Delegate of Namibia, was proposed, for a two-year period, until the election for the next three-year mandate of the Regional Commission, which will be held in May 2024.

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

10. Presentation of the new logo and acronym of the Organisation

In order to better inform Delegates about the OIE rebranding to be presented during the General Session, a special session was held during which Ms Lyne Iyadi, Regional Communication officer, introduced the new OIE brand and provided details on the logo, acronym and the rationale of the rebranding.

The World Organisation for Animal Health undertook this branding change after 18 years since the current logo came out in 2003. The objectives of the rebranding were for the Organisation's purpose and scope to be more clearly understood by audiences worldwide, and to place animal health and welfare as a high priority for decision-makers, and for standards and services to be recognised and adopted. Furthermore, for the wider audiences to understand the contribution of animal health and welfare. Consultation with stakeholders was carried out at all levels including members of the public.

The new brand does not change the core mission or mandate of the Organisation which will remain dedicated as ever to promoting global animal health and welfare.

In conclusion, the new brand will give more visibility to the Organisation, and clarity on its mission to the Veterinary Services, policymakers and wider global audiences, thereby helping the Organisation to achieve its goals. It will bring, among others, more fruitful and strong partnerships with current and potential future partners, attractiveness on the Organisation's mission from professionals other than veterinarians as well as clearer understanding worldwide of its key role in the veterinary and public health sectors.

Mr Gerrit Beger, Head of the OIE Communication Department, responded to several comments from Members who, while supporting the rebranding proposal, asked questions about the pronunciation of the acronym in English in order to avoid unpleasantries, others expressed disappointment that the OIE had consulted only some Delegates and not all. Some Delegates requested for clarification regarding the cost of this project as well as the rationale behind the decision to change the brand at this juncture. Mr Berger thanked the Delegates for their comments and informed them that the item will be presented during the administrative session of the 89th General Session.

The meeting was then reopened for all attendants, after which the President of the Regional Commission took the floor to inform the participants of the selection of the new Vice-President Dr Albertina Shilongo, the OIE Delegate of Namibia and then delivered his closing remarks.

11. Closing

The meeting officially ended at 3.40 p.m. CEST. Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela, thanked all for their active participation, and also the interpreters and technical people who organised the meeting successfully.

.../Appendix

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

16 May 2022

Agenda

- 12:45 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Zoom check-in and connecting
- 1:00 p.m. – 1:05 p.m. Welcome and housekeeping information (Dr Honoré N'lemba Mabela, President of the Regional Commission and OIE Delegate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo / Karim Tounkara, Regional Representative)
- 1.05 p.m. – 1.10 p.m. Adoption of the agenda (Dr Honoré N'lemba Mabela)
- 1.10 p.m. – 1.25 p.m. Relaunching of GF-TAD Africa (Dr Karim Tounkara/ Patrick Bastiaensen, GF-TADs Regional Secretariat)
- 1.25 p.m. – 1.35 p.m. Launch of PPR strategy in Africa; AU-IBAR 70th Anniversary and 10 years Rinderpest Eradication (Dr Nick Nwankpa, acting Director, AU-IBAR)
- 1:35 p.m.– 1:45 p.m. Organisation of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2023 (Dr Oarabile Letlhogile, OIE Delegate of Botswana)
- 1:45 p.m.– 2.00 p.m. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (Dr Honoré N'lemba Mabela/ Dr Karim Tounkara)
- 2:00 p.m.– 2.20 p.m. 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) (Dr Honoré N'lemba Mabela/ Dr Karim Tounkara)
- 2.20 p.m.– 2:40 p.m. The OIE capacity-building system: from the new normality to a new future. A dialogue with OIE Members on PVS and Training (Ms Barbara Alessandrini, Head of Department, Capacity Building Department)
- 2.40 p.m. – 3.00 p.m. Barriers to the implementation of OIE Standards on aquatic animals: first results of the survey of national Focal Points for Aquatic Animals (Drs Laure Weber-Vintzel, Programme Manager of the OIE Observatory)

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

- 3.00 p.m.– 3.20 p.m. Proposal of Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Africa as Vice-President (Dr Honoré N'lemba Mabela)
- 3.20 p.m.– 3.35 p.m. Presentation of the new logo and acronym of the Organisation (Ms Lyne Iyadi, Regional Communication Officer)
- 3:35 p.m.– 3.45 p.m. Closing

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

17 May 2022

The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas met by videoconference on 17 May 2022 at 4:00 p.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 85 participants, including Delegates and observers from 26 Members of the Commission and representatives from 11 International or Regional Organisations:

Members of the Commission: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominican Rep, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, and Uruguay

International/regional organisations: ALA¹, CaribVET², FAO³, FARM⁴, Feedlatina⁵, ICFAW⁶, IICA⁷, IPC⁸, OIRSA⁹, PROCISUR¹⁰, and SG-CAN¹¹.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Wilmer José Juárez Juárez, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of Nicaragua, supported by Dr Luis Osvaldo Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas and Dr Catya Martínez Rivas, OIE Subregional Representative for Central America.

¹ ALA: Latin American Poultry Association

² CaribVET: Caribbean Animal Health Network

³ FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

⁴ FARM: Federation of Rural Associations of the MERCOSUR

⁵ Feedlatina: Association of Animal Feed Industries of Latin America and the Caribbean

⁶ ICFAW: International Coalition for Animal Welfare

⁷ IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

⁸ IPC : International Poultry Council

⁹ OIRSA: Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria

¹⁰ PROCISUR : Cooperative Programme for Agrifood and Agroindustrial Technological Development in the Southern Cone

¹¹ SG-CAN: General Secretariat of the Andean Community

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted following a minor change in the order of topics.

2. Brief report on the activities carried out in the Region since the last General Session

Dr Luis Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, presented the actions carried out in response to the notification of outbreaks of African swine fever (ASF) in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. He highlighted the role of the GF-TADs as a coordination platform and the active participation of all its members, including the private sector, together with the Members of the Americas. In this respect, he highlighted the relevance of the development of the Regional Strategy for the containment and prevention of the spread of ASF in the Americas and the National Implementation Plans.

Referring to projects under development and planned, he indicated the progress of projects on antimicrobial resistance, financed by the European Union and the MPTF, as well as projects related to ASF, high health and high performance horses (HHP horses), aquatic animal health surveillance and biological risk management.

He then provided a summary of all the activities and meetings organised, including the meetings of the Regional Commission and the forthcoming Conference of the Regional Commission, the workshops for National Focal Points, as well as other relevant events. Finally, he detailed the communication activities carried out in the region, which are aligned with global campaigns and are coordinated with other international and regional organisations.

3. Organisation of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held by videoconference, from 8 to 9 November 2022

Dr Arnold Dwarkasing, Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission and Delegate of Curaçao, explained that taking into account the still delicate situation in the Region in terms of post-pandemic recovery, it has been decided to hold the next Regional Conference once more in a virtual format. Full details of the event will be communicated in due course.

He added that the 27th Conference is expected to be organised in 2024 in a face-to-face format, for which he invited the Members to consider their application in terms of the venue for the event. In this regard, Dr Barcos described the requirements for such a face-to-face venue, which will be distributed to Members for their consideration. It was recommended that the formal presentation be made during the 26th Regional Conference, inviting proposals to be sent sufficiently in advance in order to be discussed within the Regional Commission.

4. Decision regarding the selection of Technical Items for the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas

Dr Wilmer Juárez Juárez, explained that, taking into account that the next Regional Conference will be held once more in a virtual format, Technical Items with and without a questionnaire will not be included in the agenda of the Conference. This is because the time and format do not facilitate the presentation of such extensive issues or the development of recommendations. The Technical Item with a questionnaire selected during the meeting of the Regional Commission in the 88th General Session, will remain on the list of items to be considered for the future Conference, which will be organised in a face-to-face format in case said item is still on-going and relevant for the Regional Commission. In due course, the Technical Item will also be selected without a questionnaire.

5. Emergencies and disasters management: Creation of networks, and support from the OIE Collaborating Centres

Dr Pastor Alfonso, Representative of the National Centre for Agricultural Health, an OIE Collaborating Centre in Cuba, presented the *Network of Collaborating Centres for Veterinary Emergencies* (EmVetNet), which the Cuban Centre forms part of, and referred to existing studies describing the capacities for preparedness and management of emergencies and disasters. He then proceeded to highlight the importance of sub-regional platforms in the Americas, especially in response to the *La Soufrière* volcano eruption and the work undertaken on the relationship between animal welfare and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Finally, he presented the development of a list of experts in emergency and disaster management, the management of information and communications distribution lists, as well as the development of distance-learning modules on the subject, which will be available soon.

It was agreed that the integration of Veterinary Services into national emergency management systems is vital so as to achieve an adequate response that considers the health and welfare of the affected animals.

6. 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:

- The role and interrelation of international organisations in emergencies such as African swine fever: assessment, identification of challenges and opportunities for improvement;
- Animal health and food waste;
- Integration of private parties in animal disease surveillance and certification systems.

7. Application from the University of Chile, Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences to become an OIE Collaborating Centre on Antimicrobial Stewardship in Aquaculture

Dr Alicia Gallardo Lagno, Representative of Chile, submitted a request to the Regional Commission in order for it to consider the Faculty of Veterinary and Livestock Sciences of the University of Chile as an OIE Collaborating Centre for the administration of antimicrobial components in aquaculture.

Dr Gallardo Lagno provided a brief description of the proposed centre and its activities, stating that full details had already been shared with Delegates.

The Regional Commission unanimously approved the proposal submitted by the University of Chile.

8. The OIE capacity-building system: from the new normality to a new future. A dialogue with OIE Members on PVS and Training

Ms Barbara Alessandrini, Head of the Capacity Building Department, introduced the evolution of the OIE capacity-building system, the needs it intends to satisfy, and the reasons that are driving this transformative process.

She reminded the participants that a number of factors have changed our lives and influenced our ways to deliver services. Technologies have helped us to overcome last years' challenges, however they cannot replace the value of human relationships.

She informed that the OIE has reflected on its capacity-building system and defined new approaches to better satisfy its Members' needs and provide more impactful services through the PVS Pathway Programme and the Platform for the Training of the Veterinary Services. New methodologies and support programmes, remote and blended options, and digitalisation are the three pillars on which the OIE capacity-building system intends to move from the new normality of the post COVID-19 era to a new future in which flexible and blended approaches are possible, thus optimising the use of human, technical, and financial resources.

Ms Alessandrini concluded by highlighting that a dialogue with Members and partners interested in understanding the new opportunities offered by the PVS programme and the OIE Training Platform and in exploiting these customised opportunities has to be established, to build scalable approaches for a collaborative growth of the Veterinary Services. This is particularly important in the light of the request for more resilient Veterinary Services, recognised by national and regional health systems, to play their role in protecting One Health.

9. Barriers to the implementation of OIE Standards on aquatic animals: first results of the survey of national Focal Points for Aquatic Animals

Dr Gaspar Avendano Pérez, Technical Coordinator of the OIE Observatory, shared the first findings of a recent survey of national Focal Points for Aquatic Animals. The objectives were to identify barriers preventing OIE Members from: i) implementing OIE standards on aquatic animal health and welfare, ii) notifying aquatic animal diseases, and iii) using the PVS Pathway for the aquatic animal health services. He thanked the Delegates of the Americas Region for their participation. He pointed out the most important barriers identified in the survey, such as the fact that aquatic animal health is not prioritised by government agencies, which was seen by 54% of the respondents globally, as a blocking barrier for the notification to the OIE. He also highlighted that only 9% of the respondents indicated that Chapter 4.1. of the Aquatic Code, which was adopted at the 88th General Session in 2021, is being fully implemented by them.

Dr Gaspar Avendano Pérez concluded by indicating that the report presenting the detailed results of this survey would be available during the second semester of 2022.

10. Thematic kiosks during 89th General Session

Dr Neo Mapitse, Head of Regional Activities Department, informed the participants about the nine OIE virtual thematic kiosks of 89th General Session and invited the participants to visit these kiosks, to interact with experts and learn more about specific activities relevant to the OIE and its mission.

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

11. Presentation of the new logo and acronym of the Organisation

In order to better inform Delegates about the OIE rebranding to be presented during the General Session, a special session was held during which Ms Cecilia Westerdahl, Regional Communication officer, introduced the new OIE brand and provided details on the logo, acronym and the rationale of the rebranding.

The World Organisation for Animal Health undertook this branding change after 18 years since the current logo came out in 2003. The objectives of the rebranding were for the Organisation's purpose and scope to be more clearly understood by audiences worldwide, and to place animal health and welfare as a high priority for decision-makers, and for standards and services to be recognised and adopted. Furthermore, for the wider audiences to understand the contribution of animal health and welfare. Consultation with stakeholders was carried out at all levels including members of the public.

The new brand does not change the core mission or mandate of the Organisation which will remain dedicated as ever to promoting global animal health and welfare.

In conclusion, the new brand will give more visibility to the Organisation, and clarity on its mission to the Veterinary Services, policymakers and wider global audiences, thereby helping the Organisation to achieve its goals. It will bring, among others, more fruitful and strong partnerships with current and potential future partners, attractiveness on the Organisation's mission from professionals other than veterinarians as well as clearer understanding worldwide of its key role in the veterinary and public health sectors.

Mr Gerrit Beger, Head of the OIE Communication Department, responded to several comments from Members who, while supporting the rebranding proposal, asked questions about the pronunciation of the acronym in English in order to avoid unpleasantities, others expressed disappointment that the OIE had consulted only some Delegates and not all. Some requested clarification regarding the cost of this project as well as the rationale behind the decision to change the brand at this juncture. Mr Berger thanked the Delegates for their comments and informed them that the item will be presented during the administrative session of the 89th General Session.

Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, Deputy Director General - Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities, also clarified that the proposal for the new institutional image had the support of the Council. He added that the proposal will not be put to a vote, as it does not impact the OIE Basic Texts nor does it imply a legal modification. However, and for information purposes, it will be presented through a Resolution during the General Session to ensure the support of Members.

12. Proposal of a Member of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission for the Americas as President and conformation of the Bureau

Dr Hugo Federico Idoyaga Benítez, President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates and Delegate of Paraguay, reminded participants that the Delegate of Canada had stepped down, leaving vacant his position as President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, which required a partial election to be held.

After a discussion including the participation of all the Delegates present at the meeting, Dr Wilmer Juárez Juárez, Delegate of Nicaragua, was proposed as President, while Dr Arnold Dwarkasing, Delegate of Curaçao, was proposed as Vice-President, along with Dr Rosemary Sifford, Delegate of the United States, proposed as Secretary General.

The final composition of the Regional Commission will be as follows:

President:	Dr Wilmer Juárez Juárez (Nicaragua) (new proposed position)
Vice-president:	Dr Ximena Melón (Argentina) (voted in 2021)
Vice-president:	Dr Arnold Dwarkasing (Curaçao) (new proposed position)
Secretary general:	Dr Rosemary Sifford (United States of America) (new proposed position)

The positions will be held for a period of two years, until the election for the next three-year term of the Regional Commission, which will be held in May 2024.

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

13. Closing

The meeting officially ended at 7:30 p.m. CEST.

.../Appendix

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

17 May 2022

Agenda

- 3:45 p.m.– 4:10 p.m. Zoom check-in and connecting
- 4:10 p.m.– 4:15 p.m. Adoption of the agenda (Dr Wilmer Juárez Juárez, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of Nicaragua)
- 4:15 p.m.– 4:25 p.m. Brief report on the activities carried out in the Region since the last General Session (Dr Luis Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas)
- 4:25 p.m.– 4:35 p.m. Organisation of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held by videoconference, from 8 to 9 November 2022 (Dr Arnold Dwarkasing, Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission and Delegate of Curaçao)
- 4:35 p.m.– 4:45 p.m. Decision regarding the selection of Technical Items for the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (Dr Wilmer Juárez Juárez)
- 4:45 p.m.– 5:00 p.m. Emergencies and disasters management: Creation of networks, and support from the OIE Collaborating Centres (Dr Pastor Alfonso, OIE Collaborating Centre, Cuba)
- 5:00 p.m.– 5:15 p.m. 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*) (Dr Ximena Melón, Vice-President of the Regional Commission and Delegate of Argentina)
- 5:15 p.m.– 5:25 p.m. Application from the University of Chile, Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences to become an OIE Collaborating Centre on Antimicrobial Stewardship in Aquaculture (Dr Alicia Gallardo Lagno, Chile)
- 5:25 p.m.– 5:45 p.m. The OIE capacity-building system: from the new normality to a new future. A dialogue with OIE Members on PVS and Training (Ms Barbara Alessandrini, Head OIE Capacity Building Department)
- 5:45 p.m.– 5:55 p.m. Barriers to the implementation of OIE Standards on aquatic animals: first results of the survey of national Focal Points for Aquatic Animals (Drs Gaspar Avendano Pérez, Paula Caceres, Barbara Alessandrini, Mario Ignacio Alguerno and Bernita Giffin)
- 5:55 p.m.– 6:00 p.m. Announcement to Delegates about OIE kiosks during 89th General Session (Dr Néó Mapitse, Head of Regional Activities Department)

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

- 6:00 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. Presentation of the new logo and acronym of the Organisation (Ms Cecilia Westerdahl, Regional Communication officer)
- 6:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Selection of a Member of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to join the Bureau of the Regional Commission for the Americas as President and conformation of the Bureau (Dr Hugo Federico Idoyaga Benítez, President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates and Delegate of Paraguay).
- 6.30 p.m. – 6:40 p.m. Closing

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

16 May 2022

The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met by videoconference on 16 May 2022, at 7:00 a.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 61 participants, including Delegates from 25 Members of the Commission, 1 observer, and representatives from 8 International and Regional Organisations:

Members of the Commission: Australia, Bangladesh, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, Fiji, India, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Observer: Hong Kong SAR

International/regional organisations: FAO¹, ICFAW², ISAH³, NACA⁴, SEAFDEC⁵, ADB⁶, SPC⁷ and WHO⁸

The meeting was chaired by Dr Baoxu Huang, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and Delegate of China (PR of), accompanied by Dr Hirofumi Kugita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

2. Outcomes of the 32nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania held on 15 and 16 September 2021

Dr Wacharapon Chotiyaputta, representative from Thailand, who hosted (virtually) the 32nd conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, recapped the main topics presented during the conference. The report of the regional conference can be accessed via the link https://rr-asia.oie.int/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/final-report_32-regional-conference_afeo.pdf.

¹ FAO: Food and Agriculture organization of the United Nations

² ICFAW: International Coalition for Animal Welfare

³ ISAH: International Society for Animal Hygiene

⁴ NACA: Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific

⁵ SEAFDEC: Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre

⁶ ADB: Asian Development Bank

⁷ SPC: Pacific Community

⁸ WHO: World Health Organization

3. Confirmation of the dates and venue of the 33rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in September 2023

Mr Atul Chaturvedi, OIE Delegate from India, reiterated his country's offer to host the 33rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania in September 2023 in New Delhi. Exact dates will be defined at a later stage in consultation with the OIE Director General.

4. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 33rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item (with questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 33rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania:

“Zoonosis Prevention: Enhance capacity for prevention, control and rapid diagnostic testing of zoonoses, boost research on rapid and accurate diagnostic techniques, refine awareness campaign, and promote research on vector-borne zoonoses”.

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:

- TADs/One Health/Wildlife – Generalised discussion on emerging animal diseases, including ASF and LSD Contingency plan with vaccine development, monitoring and control mechanism.
- Trade/Border Control – Digitalisation of import/export control: eSanitary certification: Opportunities and challenges of eSanitary certification and remote assessment/evaluation: How can Members be best supported to realise the efficiency and integrity benefits of eSanitary certification digitalisation?
- R&D/Reference Centres – Enhance capacity for prevention, control and rapid diagnostic testing of zoonoses, boost researchers on rapid and accurate diagnostic techniques, refine awareness campaign, and promote research on vector-borne zoonoses.

6. The OIE capacity-building system: from the new normality to a new future. A dialogue with OIE Members on PVS and Training

Ms Barbara Alessandrini, Head of the Capacity Building Department, introduced the evolution of the OIE capacity-building system, the needs it intends to satisfy, and the reasons that are driving this transformative process.

She reminded the participants that a number of factors have changed our lives and influenced our ways to deliver services. Technologies have helped us to overcome last years' challenges, however they cannot replace the value of human relationships.

She informed that the OIE has reflected on its capacity-building system and defined new approaches to better satisfy its Members' needs and provide more impactful services through the PVS Pathway Programme and the Platform for the Training of the Veterinary Services. New methodologies and support programmes, remote and blended options, and digitalisation are the three pillars on which the OIE capacity-building system intends to move from the new normality of the post COVID-19 era to a new future in which flexible and blended approaches are possible, thus optimising the use of human, technical, and financial resources.

Ms Alessandrini concluded by highlighting that a dialogue with Members and partners interested in understanding the new opportunities offered by the PVS programme and the OIE Training Platform and in exploiting these customised opportunities has to be established, to build scalable approaches for a collaborative growth of the Veterinary Services. This is particularly important in the light of the request for more resilient Veterinary Services, recognised by national and regional health systems, to play their role in protecting One Health.

7. Barriers to the implementation of OIE Standards on aquatic animals: first results of the survey of national Focal Points for Aquatic Animals

Dr Laure Weber-Vintzel, Programme Manager of the OIE Observatory, shared the first findings of a recent survey of national Focal Points for Aquatic Animals. The objectives were to identify barriers preventing OIE Members from: i) implementing OIE standards on aquatic animal health and welfare, ii) notifying aquatic animal diseases, and iii) using the PVS Pathway for the aquatic animal health services. She thanked the Delegates of Asia, Far East and Oceania for their participation. She pointed out the most important barriers identified in the survey, such as the fact that aquatic animal health is not prioritised by government agencies, which was seen by 54% of the respondents globally, as a blocking barrier for the notification to the OIE. She also highlighted that only 9% of the respondents indicated that Chapter 4.1. of the Aquatic Code, which was adopted at the 88th General Session in 2021, is being fully implemented by them.

Dr Weber-Vintzel concluded by indicating that the report presenting the detailed results of this survey would be available during the second semester of 2022.

8. Discussion on regional positions for the OIE General Session

Dr Masatsugu Okita, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and Delegate of Japan facilitated the discussion.

The new Regional Delegates platform for sharing positions and other information was highlighted to Members and all Members were encouraged to regularly visit the site and share their comments on the OIE texts.

Dr Okita introduced an outcome of the discussion at a pre-Commission meeting where the regional common position on revised BSE standards for adoption in the forthcoming General Session was discussed based on proposals from some Members in the Region following a previous Regional Core Group meeting.

There was an extensive discussion amongst the Delegates on the proposals, however none were unanimously agreed on by the Regional Commission to be put forward at the plenary of the 89th General Session on behalf of the OIE Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania.

Dr Okita thanked all regional Delegates for their active participation in the coordination procedure and noted that albeit no regional common position had been agreed upon for the BSE standards, more than one Member can jointly propose a position and encourage relevant Members to work on it after the meeting. He also expressed the hope that the Region would continue to work to strengthen regional coordination and collaboration in order to develop regional positions on key issues. Delegates were also encouraged to consult the FAQ document on BSE available in the Delegates webpages and General Session webpages along with all relevant document for the 89th General Session.

9. Adoption of the 3rd Regional Work Plan Framework 2021-2025

Dr Tony Zohrab, Delegate of New Zealand and Vice-President of the Regional Commission, presented the 3rd Regional Work Plan Framework. The work done by the drafting group was acknowledged and commended and the Framework was unanimously adopted by the Regional Commission.

10. Report of the RAWS Consultation and proposal of the revised management of RAWS Advisory Group for adoption

Dr Ye Tun Win, Delegate of Myanmar and Secretary General of the Regional Commission, summarised the history and activities of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy and the Advisory Group in the Region (RAWS AG) before introducing the current chair of the RAWS AG, Dr Kate Littin, animal welfare focal point of New Zealand.

Dr Kate Littin presented the activities of the RAWS AG over the past 2 years highlighting the limited ability to implement activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. An updated terms of reference and *modus operandi* were presented for consideration and adoption by the Regional Commission. These comprised a more flexible approach designed to increase the ability to engage with different regional stakeholders, build the connection between the regional and global platforms, and take advantage of the digital and virtual communication which is widely used since the COVID-19 pandemic.

The updated ToR and *modus operandi* were unanimously adopted by the Regional Commission. A call for interest to update membership of the RAWS AG will be launched with a 1-month deadline, with a final list of members to be endorsed by the President of the Regional Commission.

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

11. Presentation of the new logo and acronym of the Organisation

In order to better inform Delegates about the OIE rebranding to be presented during the General Session, a special session was held during which Mr Basilio Valdehuesa, Regional Communication officer, introduced the new OIE brand and provided details on the logo, acronym and the rationale of the rebranding.

The World Organisation for Animal Health undertook this branding change after 18 years since the current logo came out in 2003. The objectives of the rebranding were for the Organisation's purpose and scope to be more clearly understood by audiences worldwide, and to place animal health and welfare as a high priority for decision-makers, and for standards and services to be recognised and adopted. Furthermore, for the wider audiences to understand the contribution of animal health and welfare. Consultation with stakeholders was carried out at all levels including members of the public.

The new brand does not change the core mission or mandate of the Organisation which will remain dedicated as ever to promoting global animal health and welfare.

In conclusion, the new brand will give more visibility to the Organisation, and clarity on its mission to the Veterinary Services, policymakers and wider global audiences, thereby helping the Organisation to achieve its goals. It will bring, among others, more fruitful and strong partnerships with current and potential future partners, attractiveness on the Organisation's mission from professionals other than veterinarians as well as clearer understanding worldwide of its key role in the veterinary and public health sectors.

Mr Gerrit Beger, Head of the OIE Communication Department, responded to several comments from Members who, while supporting the rebranding proposal, asked questions about the pronunciation of the acronym in English in order to avoid unpleasantries, others expressed disappointment that the OIE had consulted only some Delegates and not all. Some Delegates requested for clarification regarding the cost of this project as well as the rationale behind the decision to change the brand at this juncture. Mr Berger thanked the Delegates for their comments and informed them that the item will be presented during the administrative session of the 89th General Session.

12. Closing

The meeting officially ended at 10:24 a.m. CEST.

.../Appendix

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

16 May 2022

Agenda

- 6:45 a.m. - 7:10 a.m. Zoom check-in and connecting
- 7:10 a.m. - 7:15 a.m. Adoption of the agenda (Dr Baoxu Huang, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and Delegate of China, PR)
- 7:15 a.m. - 7:25 a.m. Outcomes of the 32nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania held on 15 and 16 September 2021 (Dr Wacharapon Chotiyaputta, representative from Thailand, Host Member of the 32nd Conference).
- 7:25 a.m. – 7:35 a.m. Confirmation of the dates and venue of the 33rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in September 2023 (Dr Atul Chaturvedi, Delegate of India, Host Member of the 33rd Conference)
- 7:35 a.m. - 7:45 a.m. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 33rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Dr Ye Tun Win, Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and Delegate of Myanmar)
- 7:45 a.m. - 7:55 a.m. 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*) (Dr Masatsugu Okita, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and Delegate of Japan)
- 7:55 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. The OIE capacity-building system: from the new normality to a new future. A dialogue with OIE Members on PVS and Training (Ms Barbara Alessandrini, Head OIE Capacity Building Department)
- 8:15 a.m. - 8:35 a.m. Barriers to the implementation of OIE Standards on aquatic animals: first results of the survey of national Focal Points for Aquatic Animals (Drs Laure Weber-Vintzel, Paula Caceres, Lina Awada, Barbara Alessandrini, and Stian Johnsen)
- 8:35 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. Discussion on regional positions for the OIE General Session (Dr Masatsugu Okita)
- 9:15 a.m. - 9:25 a.m. Adoption of the 3rd Regional Work Plan Framework 2021-2025 (Dr Tony Zohrab, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and Delegate of New Zealand)
- 9:25 a.m. - 9:40 a.m. Report of the RAWs Consultation and proposal of the revised management of RAWs Advisory Group for adoption (Dr Ye Tun Win)

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

9:40 a.m.– 10:00 a.m. Presentation of the new logo and acronym of the Organisation (Mr Basilio Valdehuesa, Regional Communication officer)

9:40 a.m.– 10:00 a.m. Closing

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

18 May 2022

The OIE Regional Commission for Europe met by videoconference on 18 May 2022 at 10:00 a.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 104 participants, including Delegates and observers from 42 Members of the Commission, and representatives from 8 International or Regional Organisations:

Members of the Commission:

Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Rep., Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, United Kingdom and Uzbekistan.

International/regional organisations:

EC¹, EEC², IGC³, FAO, EuFMD⁴, ICMM⁵, ICFAW/RSPCA⁶; and Irish Equine Centre.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Ulrich Herzog, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and OIE Delegate of Austria, accompanied by Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, OIE Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities, and Dr Budimir Plavsic, OIE Regional Representative for Europe who welcomed participants on behalf of the World Organisation for Animal Health.

1. Adoption of the agenda

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

¹ EC : European Commission

² EEC : Eurasian Economic Commission

³ IGC/ International Egg Council

⁴ EuFMD : The European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease

⁵ ICMM: International Committee of Military Medicine

⁶ ICFAW/RSPCA: International Coalition for Animal Welfare/Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

2. Organisation of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held from 3 to 7 October 2022

Dr Davide Lecchini, Delegate of Italy, confirmed that his country was willing and honoured to hold this important regional event and invited all Delegates to attend the conference, which would be held in Catania, from 3 to 7 October 2022.

He reported briefly on the various arrangements Italy had made to start organising the conference. Dr Lecchini provided general information about the event, assuring the participants that all the details would be sent in a timely manner.

3. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item (without questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe:

“Vaccination against HPAI”

4. 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:

- Pandemic preparedness (planning, capacity building, zoonotic surveillance, and coordination between competent authorities);
- Animal Welfare: implications on international trade and consumer expectations;
- Vaccination against HPAI – impact on animal health, welfare, and international trade.

5. The OIE capacity-building system: from the new normality to a new future. A dialogue with OIE Members on PVS and Training

Ms Barbara Alessandrini, Head of the Capacity Building Department, introduced the evolution of the OIE capacity-building system, the needs it intends to satisfy, and the reasons that are driving this transformative process.

She reminded the participants that a number of factors have changed our lives and influenced our ways to deliver services. Technologies have helped us to overcome last years' challenges, however they cannot replace the value of human relationships.

She informed that the OIE has reflected on its capacity-building system and defined new approaches to better satisfy its Members' needs and provide more impactful services through the PVS Pathway Programme and the Platform for the Training of the Veterinary Services. New methodologies and support programmes, remote and blended options, and digitalisation are the three pillars on which the OIE capacity-building system intends to move from the new normality of the post COVID-19 era to a new future in which flexible and blended approaches are possible, thus optimising the use of human, technical, and financial resources.

Ms Alessandrini concluded by highlighting that a dialogue with Members and partners interested in understanding the new opportunities offered by the PVS programme and the OIE Training Platform and in exploiting these customised opportunities has to be established, to build scalable approaches for a collaborative growth of the Veterinary Services. This is particularly important in the light of the request for more resilient Veterinary Services, recognised by national and regional health systems, to play their role in protecting One Health.

6. Barriers to the implementation of OIE Standards on aquatic animals: first results of the survey of national Focal Points for Aquatic Animals

Dr Gaspar Avendano Pérez, Technical Coordinator of the OIE Observatory, shared the first findings of a recent survey of national Focal Points for Aquatic Animals. The objectives were to identify barriers preventing OIE Members from: i) implementing OIE standards on aquatic animal health and welfare, ii) notifying aquatic animal diseases, and iii) using the PVS Pathway for the aquatic animal health services. He thanked the Delegates of Europe Region for their participation. He pointed out the most important barriers identified in the survey, such as the fact that aquatic animal health is not prioritised by government agencies, which was seen by 54% of the respondents globally, as a blocking barrier to the notification to the OIE. He also highlighted that only 9% of the respondents indicated that Chapter 4.1. of the Aquatic Code, which was adopted at the 88th General Session in 2021, had been fully implemented in their country/territory.

Dr Avendano Pérez concluded by indicating that the report presenting the detailed results of this survey would be available during the second semester of 2022.

7. Statements by Regional Representatives/Directors of FAO and WHO for Europe

Mr Vladimir Rakhmanin, FAO Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia, commended the OIE for the work done in collaboration with the FAO and WHO, in the framework of the One Health Partnership at both global and regional levels, as well as the recent adjunction of UNEP. He underlined that at regional level, the FAO will continue to work with the OIE and other partners in the framework of the Single Regional Coordination Mechanism for Health, for Europe and Central Asia, established in April 2021 and chaired by the WHO this year.

Finally, he informed about the FAO Regional Conference for Europe during which Member States reaffirmed the importance of adopting and implementing the One Health approach, including the fight against antimicrobial resistance and zoonotic diseases through national action plans.

Dr Hans Kluge, Regional Director, WHO Regional Office for Europe, highlighted the high level of cooperation with the OIE at regional level on areas of common interest, including zoonoses and pandemic preparedness. He also mentioned the fact that COVID-19 crisis reminded the world that approximately 60% of human diseases originate from animals. He concluded that no one sector can lead successfully the fight against diseases on its own, and that only a coordinated multisectoral approach under the One Health concept will ensure balanced and optimised health of people, animals and ecosystem, as well as a good preparation to current and future challenges. The ultimate goal is preventing emerging and re-emerging health threats, thus, it is of paramount importance that all concerned sectors have the needed capacities to help countries to better manage diseases threats.

Dr Kluge concluded by underlining that the OIE was a vital partner to the WHO, and that their cooperation has been greatly improved since the creation, last year, of the Quadripartite One Health Mechanism for Europe.

8. Thematic kiosks during 89th General Session

Dr Neo Mapitse, Head of Regional Activities Department, informed the participants about the nine OIE virtual thematic kiosks of 89th General Session and invited the participants to visit these kiosks, to interact with experts and learn more about specific activities relevant to the OIE and its mission.

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

9. Presentation of the new logo and acronym of the Organisation

In order to better inform Delegates about the OIE rebranding to be presented during the General Session, a special session was held during which Dr Arsenty Polyakov, Regional Communication officer, introduced the new OIE brand and provided details on the logo, acronym and the rationale of the rebranding.

The World Organisation for Animal Health undertook this branding change after 18 years since the current logo came out in 2003. The objectives of the rebranding were for the Organisation's purpose and scope to be more clearly understood by audiences worldwide, and to place animal health and welfare as a high priority for decision-makers, and for standards and services to be recognised and adopted. Furthermore, for the wider audiences to understand the contribution of animal health and welfare. Consultation with stakeholders was carried out at all levels including members of the public.

The new brand does not change the core mission or mandate of the Organisation which will remain dedicated as ever to promoting global animal health and welfare.

In conclusion, the new brand will give more visibility to the Organisation, and clarity on its mission to the Veterinary Services, policymakers and wider global audiences, thereby helping the Organisation to achieve its goals. It will bring, among others, more fruitful and strong partnerships with current and potential future partners, attractiveness on the Organisation's mission from professionals other than veterinarians as well as clearer understanding worldwide of its key role in the veterinary and public health sectors.

Mr Gerrit Beger, Head of the OIE Communication Department, responded to several comments from Members, including those done on behalf of 27 Member States of the European Union, who while supporting the rebranding proposal, asked questions about the pronunciation of the acronym in English in order to avoid unpleasantries, others expressed disappointment that the OIE had consulted only some Delegates and not all. Some requested for clarification regarding the cost of this project as well as the rationale behind the decision to change the brand at this juncture. Mr Berger thanked the Delegates for their comments and informed them that the item will be presented during the administrative session of the 89th General Session.

Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, Deputy Director General - Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities, also clarified that the proposal for the new institutional image had the support of the Council. He added that the proposal will not be put to a vote, as it does not impact the OIE Basic Texts nor does it imply a legal modification. However, and for information purposes, it will be presented through a Resolution during the General Session to ensure the support of Members.

10. Closing

The meeting officially ended at 12:30 p.m. CEST.

.../Appendix

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

18 May 2022

Agenda

- 09:45 a.m.– 10:00 a.m. Zoom check-in and connecting
- 10:00 a.m.–10:05 a.m. Welcome address (Dr Budimir Plavsic, OIE Regional Representative for Europe)
- 10:05 a.m.–10:10 a.m. Adoption of the agenda (Dr Ulrich Herzog, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Delegate of Austria)
- 10:10 a.m. –10:20 a.m. Organisation of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held from 3 to 7 October 2022 (Dr Davide Lecchini, Delegate of Italy)
- 10:20 a.m. – 10:35 a.m. Selection of Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (Dr Ulrich Herzog)
- 10:35 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. 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*) (Dr Ulrich Herzog)
- 10:50 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. The OIE capacity-building system: from the new normality to a new future. A dialogue with OIE Members on PVS and Training (Ms Barbara Alessandrini, Head OIE Capacity Building Department)
- 11:10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Barriers to the implementation of OIE Standards on aquatic animals: first results of the survey of national Focal Points for Aquatic Animals (Drs Gaspar Avendano Pérez, Paula Caceres, Barbara Alessandrini and Bernita Giffin)
- 11:30 a.m.– 11:40 a.m. Statements by Regional Representatives/Directors of FAO and WHO for Europe (Mr Vladimir Rakhmanin and Dr Hans Kluge)
- 11:40 a.m.– 11:45 a.m. Thematic kiosks during 89th General Session (Dr Néo Mapitse, Head of Regional Activities Department)

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

- 11:45 a.m.– 11:55 a.m. Presentation of the new logo and acronym of the Organisation (Mr Arsenty Polyakov, Regional Communication officer)
- 11:55 a.m.– 12:00 a.m. Closing

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

17 May 2022

The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 17 May 2022 at 9:00 a.m. CEST by videoconference. The meeting was attended by 51 participants, including Delegates and observers from 13 Members of the Commission, and representatives from 4 International and Regional Organisations:

Members of the Commission: Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, and United Arab Emirates.

International/regional organisations: CBD¹, EuFMD², FAO³, WHO-EMRO⁴

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

The meeting was chaired by Dr Fajer Al Salloom, President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East and Delegate of Bahrain accompanied 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. Outcomes of the 16th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East held on 3 and 4 November 2021

Dr Ghazi Yehia briefly described the main conclusions from the topics presented and discussed during the 16th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission which was attended by a total of 84 participants, comprising OIE Delegates or representatives of 17 Members of the Region and senior officials from 11 regional and international organisations.

He highlighted, among others: i) OIE Delegates are key in the role of advocating with high level authorities and stakeholders on the importance of the OIE mission and the need to invest in Veterinary Services; ii) Members' transparency and timely reporting of animal diseases are critical for effective control and potential eradication of animal diseases in the region; iii) good understanding of the socio-economic impacts of transboundary animal disease is key in supporting the investment case for risk management through implementation of OIE's international standards; iv) in the region, the most important factor in prioritising investment towards the prevention or control of animal diseases are impact on human health, food security, protection of export trade; v) the OIE Wildlife Health Framework is a significant global enabling that needs to be supported by all parties as a

¹ CBD: Convention on Biological Diversity

² EU-FMD: European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease

³ FAO : Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

⁴ WHO-EMRO : World Health Organization - Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean

global priority; vi) the OIE is currently developing new tools to assist Members in workforce assessment and planning, and in creating an enabling environment for effective integration of Veterinary para-professionals into the veterinary workforce; vii) the most important actions in the Region to tackle the spread of AMR are surveillance, monitoring of antimicrobial use, legislation, and promotion of AMR awareness campaigns.

3. Confirmation of the dates and venue of the 17th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in November 2023

Dr Elias Ibrahim, Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East and Delegate of Lebanon confirmed that the next Conference of the OIE Regional Commission will be hosted by Saudi Arabia, in November 2023. Exact dates will be defined at a later stage in consultation with the OIE Director General.

4. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 17th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item (with questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 17th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East:

“One Health (coordination, communication and cooperation between Veterinary and Public Health Services)”

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:

- Global preparedness for disease prevention and control;
- One Health: coordination between the responsible sectors (Veterinary, Public Health and Environment);
- Strengthen the Veterinary Laboratories capacity for TADs.

The Region also suggested “safe trade of animal and animal products” as a topic that should always be addressed by the OIE through different means in order to keep Members well informed and updated on this key mission of the Organisation.

6. Barriers to the implementation of OIE Standards on aquatic animals: first results of the survey of national Focal Points for Aquatic Animals

Dr Laure Weber-Vintzel, Programme Manager of the OIE Observatory, shared the first findings of a recent survey of national Focal Points for Aquatic Animals. The objectives were to identify barriers preventing OIE Members from: i) implementing OIE standards on aquatic animal health and welfare, ii) notifying aquatic animal diseases, and iii) using the PVS Pathway for the aquatic animal health services. She thanked the Delegates of the Middle East Region for their participation. She pointed out the most important barriers identified in the survey, such as the fact that aquatic animal health is not prioritised by government agencies, which was seen by 54% of the respondents globally, as a blocking barrier for the notification to the OIE. She also highlighted that only 9% of the respondents indicated that Chapter 4.1. of the Aquatic Code, which was adopted at the 88th General Session in 2021, is being fully implemented.

Dr Weber-Vintzel concluded by indicating that the report presenting the detailed results of this survey would be available during the second semester of 2022.

7. The OIE capacity-building system: from the new normality to a new future. A dialogue with OIE Members on PVS and Training

Ms Barbara Alessandrini, Head of the Capacity Building Department, introduced the evolution of the OIE capacity-building system, the needs it intends to satisfy, and the reasons that are driving this transformative process.

She reminded the participants that a number of factors have changed our lives and influenced our ways to deliver services. Technologies have helped us to overcome last years' challenges, however they cannot replace the value of human relationships.

She informed that the OIE has reflected on its capacity-building system and defined new approaches to better satisfy its Members' needs and provide more impactful services through the PVS Pathway Programme and the Platform for the Training of the Veterinary Services. New methodologies and support programmes, remote and blended options, and digitalisation are the three pillars on which the OIE capacity-building system intends to move from the new normality of the post COVID-19 era to a new future in which flexible and blended approaches are possible, thus optimising the use of human, technical, and financial resources.

Ms Alessandrini concluded by highlighting that a dialogue with Members and partners interested in understanding the new opportunities offered by the PVS programme and the OIE Training Platform and in exploiting these customised opportunities has to be established, to build scalable approaches for a collaborative growth of the Veterinary Services. This is particularly important in the light of the request for more resilient Veterinary Services, recognised by national and regional health systems, to play their role in protecting One Health.

8. Adoption of the Regional Core Group Terms of Reference

Dr Fajer Al Salloom reminded Delegates about the Regional Core Group (RCG) Terms of Reference (ToRs) that were shared with all the Members few weeks prior to the meeting for comments. The ToRs provide a clear guidance regarding the functioning and composition of the RCG.

No comments had been received by the time of the meeting. Dr Fajer requested Delegates again for comments or questions if they had any, regarding the document. The ToRs were considered to be clear and were agreed upon by all Delegates.

The Regional Commission adopted the document unanimously.

9. Application from the “Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority” to become an OIE Collaborating Centre on Camel Diseases

Mrs Kaltham Kayaf, Delegate of the United Arab Emirates, presented to the Regional Commission, a proposal for the “Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority” to become an OIE Collaborating Centre on Camel Diseases.

He provided a brief review of the proposal and said that full details were sent to Delegates in advance by the Regional Representation.

The Commission approved this proposal.

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

10. Proposal of a Member of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to join the OIE Council as Member, and partial elections (if needed) in case of vacancy in the Bureau of the Regional Commission for the Middle East

Dr Fajer Al Salloom, Delegate of Bahrain, was proposed as candidate to join the OIE Council as member.

Dr Abdelhakim Mohamed Ali, Delegate of Egypt, was proposed as President of the Bureau of the Regional Commission following the vacancy left by Dr Al Salloom while Dr Samah Alsherif, Delegate of Oman, was proposed as Vice-President following the vacancy left by Dr Abdelhakim Mohamed Ali, former Vice-President of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East.

They are proposed for a two-year period, until the election for the next three-year mandate of the Regional Commission, which will be held in May 2024.

The new composition of the Regional Commission will be as follows:

President: Dr Abdelhakim Ali (Delegate of Egypt) (new proposed position)
Vice President : Dr Sanad Alharbi (Delegate of Saudi Arabia) (voted in 2021)
Vice President : Dr Samah Alsharif (Delegate of Oman) (new proposed position)
Secretary: Dr Elias Ibrahim (Delegate of Lebanon) (voted in 2021)

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

11. Presentation of the new logo and acronym of the Organisation

In order to better inform Delegates about the OIE rebranding to be presented during the General Session, a special session was held during which Ms Rita Rizk, Regional Communication officer, introduced the new OIE brand and provided details on the logo, acronym, and the rationale of the rebranding.

The World Organisation for Animal Health undertook this branding change after 18 years since the current logo came out in 2003. The objectives of the rebranding were for the Organisation's purpose and scope to be more clearly understood by audiences worldwide, and to place animal health and welfare as a high priority for decision-makers, and for standards and services to be recognised and adopted. Furthermore, for the wider audiences to understand the contribution of animal health and welfare. Consultation with stakeholders was carried out at all levels including members of the public.

The new brand does not change the core mission or mandate of the Organisation which will remain dedicated as ever to promoting global animal health and welfare.

In conclusion, the new brand will give more visibility to the Organisation, and clarity on its mission to the Veterinary Services, policymakers and wider global audiences, thereby helping the Organisation to achieve its goals. It will bring, among others, more fruitful and strong partnerships with current and potential future partners, attractiveness on the Organisation's mission from professionals other than veterinarians as well as clearer understanding worldwide of its key role in the veterinary and public health sectors.

Mr Gerrit Beger, Head of the OIE Communication Department, responded to several comments from Members who, while supporting the rebranding proposal, asked questions about the pronunciation of the acronym in English in order to avoid unpleasantries, others expressed disappointment that the OIE had consulted only some Delegates and not all. Some Delegates requested for clarification regarding the cost of this project as well as the rationale behind the decision to change the brand at this juncture. Mr Berger thanked the Delegates for their comments and informed them that the item will be presented during the administrative session of the 89th General Session.

12. Closing

The meeting officially ended at 11:15 a.m. CEST.

.../Appendix

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

17 May 2022

Agenda

- 8:45 a.m.– 9:05 a.m. Zoom check-in and connecting
- 9:05 a.m.– 9:10 a.m. Adoption of the agenda (Dr Fajer Al Salloom, President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East and Delegate of Bahrain)
- 9:10 a.m. – 9:20 a.m. Outcomes of the 16th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East held on 3 and 4 November 2021 (Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East)
- 9:20 a.m. – 9:25 a.m. Confirmation of the dates and venue of the 17th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in November 2023 (Dr Elias Ibrahim, Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East and Delegate of Lebanon)
- 9:25 a.m. – 9:35 a.m. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 17th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (Dr Sanad Alharbi, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East and Delegate of Saudi Arabia)
- 9:35 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. 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*) (Dr Abdelhakim Mohamed Ali, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East and Delegate of Egypt)
- 9:50 a.m.– 10:00 a.m. Barriers to the implementation of OIE Standards on aquatic animals: first results of the survey of national Focal Points for Aquatic Animals (Drs Laure Weber-Vintzel, Paula Caceres, Barbara Alessandrini, and Bernita Giffin)
- 10:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. The OIE capacity-building system: from the new normality to a new future. A dialogue with OIE Members on PVS and Training (Ms Barbara Alessandrini, Head OIE Capacity Building Department)
- 10:20 a.m.– 10:25 a.m. Adoption of the Regional Core Group Terms of Reference (Dr Fajer Al Salloom)
- 10:25 a.m.– 10:35 a.m. Application from the “Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority” to become an OIE Collaborating Centre on Camel Diseases (Mrs Kaltham Kayaf, Delegate of the United Arab Emirates)

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

- 10:35 a.m.– 10:55 a.m. Proposal of a Member of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to join the OIE Council as Member, and partial elections (if needed) in case of vacancy in the Bureau of the Regional Commission for the Middle East (Dr Fajer Al Salloom)
- 10:55 a.m.– 11:10 a.m. Presentation of the new logo and acronym of the Organisation (Ms Rita Rizk, Regional Communication officer)
- 11:10 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Closing