

Organisation  
Mondiale  
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Animal



## Regional information seminar for newly appointed OIE Delegates in Africa

Gaborone, Botswana, 9 – 12 March 2010

OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa  
Gaborone, Botswana



**Regional Information Seminar** funded by the OIE and the European Union (European Commission) under the DG SANCO 'Better Training for Safer Food' programme.



# REPORT

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REGIONAL INFORMATION SEMINAR

*“Recently appointed OIE Delegates  
in Africa”*

09.03.2010 – 12.03.2010

Gaborone ▼ Botswana

OIE Sub-regional representation for Southern Africa

Gaborone ▲ Botswana

Seminar funded by the OIE and  
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## ACRONYMS

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AAHC	Aquatic Animal Health Code [OIE]
AAHSC	Aquatic Animals Health Standards Commission [OIE]
AFP	Agence France Presse
AI	Avian Influenza
ALIVE	Partnership for Africa Livestock Development
ALOP	Appropriate Level of Protection [SPS]
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union [UMA]
ASF	African Swine Fever
AU	African Union
BMC	Botswana Meat Commission
BNVL	Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
BTSF	Better Training for Safer Food (programme) [DG SANCO]
BTV	Botswana Television
BVI	Botswana Vaccine Institute
CA	Contribution Agreement
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme [AU]
CAC	Codex Alimentarius Commission
CBPP	Contagious Bovine Pleuro-Pneumonia
CEBEVIRHA	Economic Commission for Livestock, Meat and Fisheries Resources [CEMAC]
CEC	Commission of the European Community [EC]
CEMAC	Communauté Economique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale
CPD	Continuous Professional Development
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
DG-SANCO	Health and Consumer Directorate General [EC]
DSB	Dispute Settlement Body [WTO]
DVS	Department of Veterinary Services
DVTD	Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases [UP]
EC	European Commission
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ECTAD	Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases [FAO]
EISMV	Inter-State School for Veterinary Medicine and Science
EU	European Union
EUS	Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
GATT	Global Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GF-TAD	Global Framework for the progressive control of TADs
GLEWS	Global Early Warning and response System for major animal diseases, including zoonoses
HPAI	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency [Austria]
IAPHV-II	Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II [Morocco]
IBAR	Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources [AU]
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority on Development
IHR	International Health Regulations [WHO]
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention [FAO]
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITM	Institute for Tropical Medicine, Antwerp [Belgium]
KHV	Koi Herpes Virus
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NA	North(ern) Africa
ND	Newcastle Disease
NEP	National Enquiry Point [WTO]
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation

OAU	Organisation of African Unity [now AU]
OFFLU	Joint OIE-FAO network of expertise on avian influenza
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
OVI	Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute [South Africa]
OWOH	One World, One Health
PAN SPSO	Participation of African Nations in SPS Organisations [IBAR]
PPR	Peste des Petits Ruminants
PVS	Performance of Veterinary Services [OIE]
RAHC	Regional Animal Health Centre
REC	Regional Economic Community
RESEPI	Regional Network of National Epidemio-Surveillance Systems in West Africa
RR	Regional Representation [OIE]
RR-AF	RR for Africa
RVF	Rift Valley Fever
SA	Southern Africa
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAPA	Southern African Poultry Association
SAVC	South African Veterinary Council
SCAD	Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases [OIE]
SPINAH AHI	Support Programme to Integrated National Action Plans for Avian and Human Influenza [IBAR]
SPS	[Agreement on the application of] Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards [WTO]
SRR	Sub-Regional Representation [OIE]
SRR-EA	SRR for East Africa and the Horn of Africa
SRR-NA	SRR for North Africa
SRR-SA	SRR for Southern Africa
TAD	Transboundary Animal Disease(s)
TAHC	Terrestrial Animal Health Code [OIE]
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade [WTO]
TCP	Technical Cooperation Project [FAO]
UEMOA	Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest-Africaine [WAEMU]
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UMA	Union du Maghreb Arabe [AMU]
UP	University of Pretoria [South Africa]
VPP	Veterinary Para-Professionals
VS	Veterinary Services
VSB	Veterinary Statutory Body
WAEMU	West African Economic and Monetary Union [UEMOA]
WAHID	World Animal Health Information Database [OIE]
WAHIS	World Animal Health Information System [OIE]
WAHWF	World Animal Health and Welfare Fund [OIE]
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organisation
WTO	World Trade Organisation

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All weight units expressed in tonnes are metric tons.

All distance and surface area units are expressed in metric units (km and km<sup>2</sup>)

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Edited by Patrick Bastiaensen

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## “REGIONAL INFORMATION SEMINAR FOR RECENTLY APPOINTED OIE DELEGATES IN AFRICA”

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### INTRODUCTION

As part of the 2010 capacity building programme for OIE Delegates and Focal Points in Africa, twenty-five recently appointed OIE Delegates from African OIE member countries met in Gaborone, Botswana from March 9 - 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010 for a regional information seminar to improve their knowledge of the OIE and its activities. The seminar was facilitated by experts from within and outside the OIE and was complemented by field visits to the *Botswana Meat Commission* (BMC), Mokolodi Game Reserve and the *Botswana Vaccine Institute* (BVI).

The seminar was facilitated by the European Commission (the “*better training for safer food*” programme of the Directorate General Health and Consumers, DG-SANCO) and by the Government of Botswana, host country for the seminar.

It took place in the meeting room of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa (and *Regional Animal Health Centre* for Southern Africa) in Gaborone (Ministry of Agriculture).

The seminar covered the traditional mandates as well as the new mandates introduced in the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan and the forthcoming 5<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan, such as animal welfare, legislation, communication, veterinary education, and so forth. The meeting was attended by OIE Delegates (or their deputies) from Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Comoros, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, São Tomé & Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania and Togo. The meeting was also attended by all 4 (sub)Regional Representatives of the OIE in Africa, based in Bamako, Gaborone, Tunis and Nairobi.



*Visit of the BMC export abattoir in Lobatse, 70 kms south of the capital Gaborone. Picture © Vincent Brioude (OIE) 2010.*

More information : [http://www.rr-africa.oie.int/en/en\\_index\\_annex49.html](http://www.rr-africa.oie.int/en/en_index_annex49.html)

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

Welcoming address by the OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Southern Africa	page 10
<b>Session 1 : The OIE : mission, organisation and functioning</b>	<b>12</b>
Objectives and structure of the OIE and the 4th Strategic Plan	14
The OIE's 5th strategic plan (2011-2015): major changes	16
OIE expertise, available to Member Countries	17
OIE network of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres (twinning)	19
OIE twinning programme – a practical example from Botswana (BNVL)	21
OIE Collaborating Centre for training in integrated livestock and wildlife health and management	22
Regional Animal Health Centres: the FAO's perspective	23
OIE Regional Commission for Africa	25
<b>Session 2 : The WTO and the SPS Agreement</b>	<b>27</b>
General principles	29
What about private standards?	33
What about animal welfare?	35
<b>Session 3 : The OIE Codes and Manuals</b>	<b>37</b>
Codes, Manuals and associated standards	39
Aquatic animal diseases and biological standards	43
Zoning, compartmentalization and containment zoning	45
Identification, registration and traceability	47
Applying zoning – the example of Botswana for beef exports	48
<b>Session 4 : Rights &amp; obligations of OIE Member Countries &amp; OIE Delegates</b>	<b>49</b>
Perceptions of OIE Delegates : Botswana	51
Perceptions of OIE Delegates : Cameroon	53
Perceptions of OIE Delegates : Gabon	55
Perceptions of OIE Delegates : Madagascar	56
Perceptions of OIE Delegates : Senegal	57
Designation and responsibilities of OIE focal points	58
My life as an OIE Delegate	59
Notification of animal diseases (general principles)	63
<b>Session 5 : Quality of veterinary services</b>	<b>65</b>
Provisions of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code : the BSE chapter as applied in Botswana	67
Provisions of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code : the quality of veterinary services	71
Communication with the media: general principles and outcomes of the OIE Seminar on Communication held in Gaborone in September 2009	72
Veterinary education	73
Veterinary statutory bodies	74

<b>Session 6 : Strategy</b>	<b>75</b>
External relations: relations between the OIE and other organisations	77
Regional activities and strategies of the OIE SRR for North Africa	80
Regional activities and strategies of the OIE SRR for Southern Africa	82
Regional activities and strategies of the OIE RR for Africa (Bamako)	84
<b>Annexes</b>	<b>86</b>
Seminar programme	86
List of participants	90
Seminar background and objectives	98
The SPS Agreement of the WTO	101

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**WELCOMING ADDRESS BY THE OIE SUB-REGIONAL  
REPRESENTATIVE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA**

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*Bonaventure J. Mtei*

Representative  
Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa  
OIE  
Gaborone, Botswana

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Guest of Honour,  
Colleagues, OIE Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of Dr Bernard Vallat, the Director General of the *World Organisation for Animal Health* (OIE) and on my own behalf may I join the OIE Delegate for Botswana, Dr Phillemon-Motsu to welcome you all to Gaborone, Botswana and in particular to this meeting. Thank you for coming.

Guest of Honour, I thank you for availing yourself to come and officiate at this meeting. We are most grateful to the Ministry of Agriculture of the Government of Botswana for agreeing to host this meeting and to facilitating the local participants who we see as future delegates and OIE experts in the making. In a very special way I would like to recognise the presence of all these OIE experts here with us today. These are the top Gurus of the OIE. It is a privilege to have Alex, Francesco, Gideon, Mara, Vincent and all the other speakers. Of course not to forget the OIE Leadership for Africa : Drs Olaho-Mukani, Niang, Kechrid and *mzee* Masiga. We are sure to get the best out of you and I sincerely hope that you will enjoy your working visit to Botswana. I would also like to acknowledge the presence of Maria Lisa Santonocito representing the European Delegation here in Botswana. We very much appreciate financial support from the European Union for the OIE to organize this seminar through the *Better Training for Safer Food* (BTSF) programme.

Guest of honour, gathered here are newly appointed OIE Delegates who are in their official and legal status, the *Chief Veterinary Officers* (CVOs) or *Directors of Veterinary Services* (DVSs) in their respective countries.

I will not go into details of OIE since that is the aim of this training seminar. Ladies and gentlemen we are here to learn from the OIE experts the mandate and responsibilities of the OIE as the sole international standard setting body for animal health and welfare. We are also here to learn from each other's experiences on how to improve OIE Delegate's performance in executing their official duties as heads of their respective national veterinary services responsible for implementing the OIE standards.

When we read stories like .... "*Livestock owners in Africa are taking animal health care into their own hands due to poor Veterinary Services*" ... we get worried. That is why OIE has embarked on a very ambitious programme to improve on the quality and good governance of veterinary services worldwide with particular focus on Africa. OIE's strongly believes that improving quality and good governance of national veterinary services is a significant value addition to the past emphasis on enhancing VS capacities to comply and participate in the standard setting mechanisms of the OIE. Implementation of this programme needs improved skills on leadership, organisation and management on the part of the OIE Delegates.

As you are all OIE Delegates from Africa, let me take the liberty to impress on you the need for us to reflect on the future of OIE activities in this continent. You may recall that the OIE has already celebrated 85 years since it was established. Some African countries namely Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia were amongst the first 25 countries in the world to sign the International Agreement on the 25th January 1924 in Paris, latter joined by Madagascar, Mauritius, Somalia and Côte d'Ivoire.

Soon after independence each of the African States joined the OIE and now we are proud of a strong Team of 51 African Delegates to the OIE World Assembly. What does this mean for Africa? It means a powerful democratic force to reckon with not only in terms of OIE standards setting but also in providing strategic guidance to the leadership, management and organisation of the OIE and in particular with reference to the African continent.

There is no doubt that the OIE has performed extremely well in Africa especially in recent years. The establishment of the OIE *Regional Representation for Africa* (OIE RR) in Mali in the year 2000 subsequently followed by the OIE Sub Regional Representations (OIE SRRs) in Gaborone in 2005, Tunis in 2009, and now 2010 in Nairobi, is a clear indication of OIE's commitment and in particular that of Dr Bernard Vallat to Africa. But let us pose here and ask ourselves.....How is Africa doing to sustain OIE Actions in the continent? Yes African States are paying their annual membership contributions and then what?

OIE Representations in Africa are currently operational thanks to voluntary contributions from the European Union, WAHF, France, Spain and Italy etc with minimum extra contributions from the host countries Mali, Botswana, Tunisia and Kenya. If we really need OIE in Africa, (and I have no doubt whatsoever in my mind that OIE is most wanted in Africa for obvious reasons) then why can't AU Member States fund OIE interventions in the continent from own resources? We are talking here of countries with huge terrestrial and aquatic animal resources like Sudan, Ethiopia, Republic of South Africa, Egypt, Nigeria, United Republic of Tanzania, Tunisia, Libya, Kenya, Botswana, Namibia and Uganda to mention a few. Surely something has to be done. If I may ask: is our political leadership and in particular at the level of Ministers responsible for Livestock and Heads of States in Africa aware of this problem? Something has to be done to convince AU Member States at the highest decision making level to contribute to OIE Actions in Africa as part of the 3% of the 10% of the GDP which was agreed by the Heads of States in Maputo (2004) to be allocated to Agriculture.

As CVOs from Africa you will be meeting in Entebbe, Uganda first week of May 2010, prior to the Conference of Ministers responsible for Livestock organised by the AU-IBAR. May I ask you and the leadership of OIE in Africa : what message are we taking to Entebbe with respect to Africa complying with OIE international standards on animal health and welfare as a prerequisite for trade in animals and animal products?

It has to be business *unusual* to get us out of this dilemma of OIE Actions in Africa depending on foreign well wishers whose support I am in no way underrating.

Guest of Honour, I thought I should get it out of my chest and bring it to the attention of this august meeting hoping that the knowledge these OIE Delegates will be sharing and acquiring from the OIE experts here present will provoke them to see the future development of OIE actions in Africa in a more positive approach with regards to the use of own resources from the continent.

Yes it can be done, we only have to play our part.

I wish you fruitful deliberations and thank you all for your attention.

Kealeboga

# Session 1

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The OIE: missions,  
organisation and  
functioning



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## OBJECTIVES AND STRUCTURE OF THE OIE AND THE 4TH STRATEGIC PLAN

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*Mara Elma Gonzalez-Ortiz*

Deputy Head  
Regional Activities Department  
OIE  
Paris, France

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The *Office International des Epizooties (OIE)* is an intergovernmental Organisation funded in 1924 by 28 countries, with the aim to prevent spreading of animal diseases around the world. In May 2003 the *International Committee*, currently the *World Assembly of Delegates*, adopted the new name of the *World Organisation for Animal Health* maintaining its original acronym, to better reflect its role, responsibilities and field of action. The OIE is funded by ordinary contributions from Member Countries and by voluntary contributions for specific activities, as well as by the *World Fund for Animal Health and Welfare*. By March 2010 the OIE has 175 OIE Members : Americas 29, Africa 51, Europe 53, Middle East 20, and Asia and the Pacific 35. Some members belong to more than one region. OIE objectives are directed to:

- Ensure transparency in the global animal disease situation, disseminating information on animal diseases reported by affected countries, to allow other countries to take preventive measures;
- Collect, analyse disseminate latest veterinary scientific information on animal disease control, in order to support Member Countries to improve the methods to control and eradicate animal diseases.
- Encourage international solidarity in the control of animal diseases, providing technical support to Member Countries and maintaining permanent contact to international, regional and national financial organizations in order to convince them to invest on the control on animal diseases and zoonoses.
- Safeguard world trade by publishing health standards for international trade in animals and animal products, which can be used to protect Member countries from the introduction of diseases and pathogens, without setting up unjustified sanitary barriers.
- Improve the legal framework and resources of National Veterinary Services, considered by the OIE as a Global Public Good, to enable Member Countries to benefit from WTO *Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement (SPS Agreement)* while at the same time providing greater protection for animal health and public health.
- Provide a better guarantee of food of animal origin and to promote animal welfare to a science based approach, focusing on eliminating potential hazards existing prior to the slaughter of animals or the primary processing of their products that could be a source of risk for consumers.

The functioning of OIE is based in its structure comprising: i) the *World Assembly of Delegates*, which is its highest authority comprised by all OIE Delegates; ii) the *Council*, which examines technical and administrative matters to be presented for approval of the World Assembly of Delegates; iii) the *Director General*, elected for a 5 years period; iv) the *Specialist Commissions*, which address scientific and technical issues and develop international standards; v) the *Regional Commissions*, which address regional needs in terms of prevention, control and eradication of diseases of regional concern proposing regional policies for further endorsement and support; vi) the *Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories*, as centres of expertise and worldwide standardization; vii) the *Ad hoc groups* and *Working groups* as key players for preparing recommendations for Specialist Commissions and World Assembly of Delegates.



The 4<sup>th</sup> OIE Strategic Plan (2006-2010), extended the OIE original mandate from “prevent animal diseases from spreading around the world” to “the improvement of animal health all over the world” and brought OIE to play even a greater role in policies linked to: i) improve public health by controlling zoonoses and food borne diseases; ii) improvement of safety of trade of animals and animal products; iii) promotion of access to regional and international markets; iv) promotion of animal welfare by ensuring animal health and adopting international standards; and v) promotion of the role of National Veterinary Services influencing policies and providing capacity building.

*The Headquarters of the OIE in Paris.  
Picture © D. Mordzinski (oie).*

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## THE OIE'S 5TH STRATEGIC PLAN (2011-2015): MAJOR CHANGES

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*Vincent Brioudes*

Programme Officer  
Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa,  
OIE  
Tunis, Tunisia

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The OIE was established in 1924 to “*prevent animal diseases from spreading in the world*”. From 2006, the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan extended the global mandate of the OIE to include “*the improvement of animal health worldwide*”. The 2006-2010 Plan consolidates the main tasks defined by the previous Plan (transparency in world animal health, the establishment of standards on scientific grounds, guidelines for the prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases) and validates new tasks for the OIE (training and capacity building, the development of the OIE's influence as well as the role of the OIE in the settlement of health disputes between countries). From 2011 onwards, the OIE's 5th Strategic Plan (2011–2015) will take up certain tasks from the 4<sup>th</sup> Plan and will commit the OIE to new concepts. Tasks of the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan which will be continued will revolve around permanent training initiatives and the capacity building of OIE delegates and their national focal points. The promotion of the OIE's influential role will also be strengthened, whether it be the OIE's scientific influence, the influence of the OIE in global governance in respect of animal health or the OIE's influence on national trends in animal health (the strategic role of the OIE Delegate in these national initiatives).

New concepts will be developed by the OIE in its 5<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan (2011–2015) and will involve subjects which are both very important and on a global scale:

- veterinary services as a global public good.
- the strategy called “*One World, One Health*” (OWOH) for the risk management at the animal – man - environment interface,
- the role of animal health in food health security (in particular in the control of zoonoses) and in food security (the importance of animal proteins),
- strategic commitment by the OIE to animal welfare (the establishment of standards by the OIE),
- relations between livestock farming and the environment with the need to control pollutions of animal origin,
- training of veterinary surgeons and the necessity for professional excellence,
- good governance of veterinary services (appropriate legislation, public/private partnerships, PVS process, initial and ongoing training of veterinary surgeons).

Through this new global mandate, the OIE will intervene even more in the policies relating to the improvement of public health through the fight against zoonoses including those of food origin, the improvement of the health security of world trade in animals and their products, promoting access by member countries to regional and international markets, promotion of animal welfare through animal health and by adopting international rules for consolidation, the promotion of national veterinary services to implement all these initiatives as well as help for their capacity building. The implementation of strategic plans through the Director General's work programme consistently shows that since 1924 the OIE has been a world public asset to the international community and that its cost for member countries is negligible in relation to services rendered in return.

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## OIE EXPERTISE, AVAILABLE TO MEMBER COUNTRIES

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*Gideon K. Brückner*

President  
Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases  
OIE  
Somerset-West, South Africa

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The *World Organisation for Animal Health* (OIE) as an intergovernmental organisation is primarily responsible to be of service to its 175 Members who through the *World Assembly of Delegates*, determines the policy, direction and international standards of the OIE. To enable its Delegates to continuously participate in scientific debates and deliberations and to have access to the most recent knowledge related to terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases, animal welfare and zoonosis, the OIE has a vast network of expertise available for use and access by Members. Expertise are available through its specialist Commissions; working groups, ad hoc expert groups, OIE reference laboratories and collaborating centres, expert based networks such as OFFLU and the reference laboratory networks for foot and mouth disease, bluetongue and animal influenzas, expert missions to Member countries and continuous updating of information on the OIE official internet website.

The OIE Specialist Commissions elected every three years by and directly responsible to the World Assembly of Delegates, comprises the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases, the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission, the Biological Standards Commission and the Aquatic Health Standards Commission. Each Commission consists of six members representing the specific expertise required for that Commission and as far as possible also representative of the 5 regions of the OIE. The main task of these Commissions are the formulation and continuous updating of OIE standards for animal and aquatic diseases, diagnosis of these diseases, the standards for animal and aquatic vaccines, standards for various aspects of service delivery, obtaining country or zonal freedom from diseases, certification and risk mitigation for export of animals and products and providing the latest and updated scientific justification for the setting of standards.

Under the jurisdiction and on request of the Specialist Commissions, the Director General of the OIE can convene ad hoc expert groups to assist and advise the Commissions in their tasks. These experts groups normally consist of 5 to 6 members and are nominated on a geographically representative basis by the Director General in consultation with the Presidents of the Commissions.

Also under the jurisdiction of the Commissions, specific permanent Working Groups are elected by the Director General and confirmed on an annual basis during the General Session. There are currently 3 permanent Working Groups: the Working group on Wildlife Diseases responsible to the Scientific Commission and the Working Groups for Animal Welfare and Animal Production and Food safety responsible to the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission. These Working Groups are responsible for advising the Director General and the Specialist Commissions on their subject of expertise and report annually also to the General Assembly on their activities.

The OIE currently has a network of 187 reference laboratories spread over 38 countries covering more than 100 diseases with the help of over 160 designated and accredited experts.

Over and above general diagnostic and research activities undertaken by these experts, they also provide specific expertise to the OIE and its Members such as assisting in the international harmonization and standardization of diagnostic methods, the preparation and supply of international standards, research and development of new procedures, the collection, analysis and dissemination of epidemiological data, the provision of consultancy services, provision of training and workshops and the organisation of scientific meetings and conferences.

A complementary source of expertise to that of the OIE reference laboratories, are the 35 OIE collaborating centres currently situated in 20 countries covering more than 33 topics of interest to OIE Members by its 35 experts. While the OIE reference laboratories are disease specific in nature, the collaborating centres focus on specific topics of interest to Members such as for example epidemiology, training of veterinary service personnel, wildlife diseases and tropical diseases.

The OIE, realizing that most of these reference laboratories and collaborating centres are situated in developed countries and also most of them located in the northern hemisphere, while more than 70% of its Members are from developing and in-transition countries, has initiated a laboratory twinning program to try and fill this gap. The main thrust of the OIE laboratory twinning program is to establish access to and availability of expertise in those countries mostly in developing and in-transition countries. This is done through the establishment of a relationship between candidate laboratory in a developing country and a parent OIE reference laboratory or collaborating centre to help and develop the expertise within the candidate laboratory or collaborating centre with the aim of eventually becoming an OIE reference laboratory or collaborating centre in their own right and to provide expertise in their own area or region of service.

To further complement the availability and access to expertise, the OIE has established several networks of expertise amongst its reference laboratories such as the OIE/FAO FMD laboratories network, the OIE network of Bluetongue reference laboratories and the OIE/FAO *Network of Animal Influenza Laboratories* (OFFLU).

On the request of Members or in the event of major disease outbreaks, the OIE regularly provide teams of expertise to visit these countries and to advise on the most appropriate ways to address the problem or control the disease outbreaks.

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## OIE NETWORK OF REFERENCE LABORATORIES AND COLLABORATING CENTRES (TWINNING)

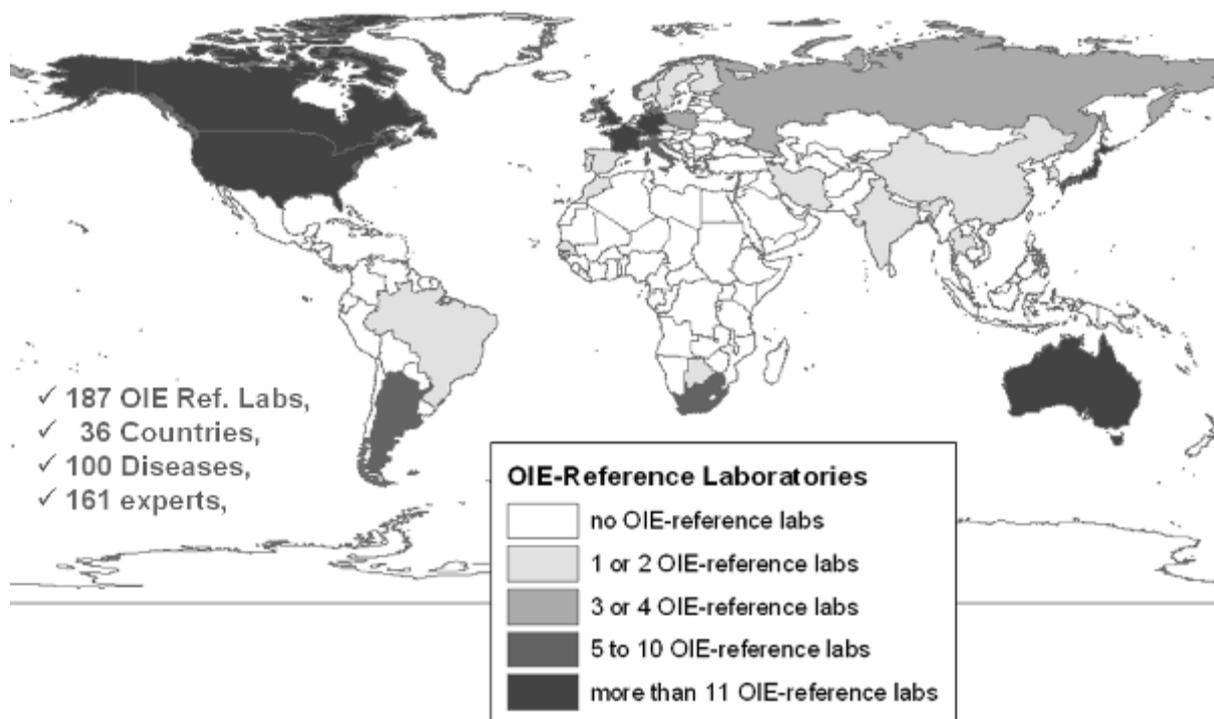
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*Patrick Bastiaensen*

Programme Officer  
Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa  
OIE  
Gaborone, Botswana

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Several years ago, OIE initiated the twinning programme, which main aim it was to bring the veterinary expertise of the OIE closer to the Member States and carry out a more logical and equitable distribution of OIE's technical support mechanisms. Initially directed towards diagnostic laboratory services, the programme was extended to centres of excellence and will likely extend even further towards, inter alia, veterinary education. The principle consists in twinning an OIE Reference Laboratory with a national laboratory, having the ambition and the resources to reach the same level as the 'parent' laboratory, in order to become one day, even if that does not constitute part of the conditions, a Reference Laboratory for the region. The programme is therefore not addressing laboratories that are needy of investments, even of rehabilitation, but laboratories that are already fully operational, from an (infra)structural and financial point of view, with a level of services delivery that is already rather high and requires a very specific 'intellectual' support to reach the level expected of a scientific centre of excellence. Very often that implies the implementation of internal control systems and quality assurance. The same principle applies, but with less detailed technical guidelines, for the OIE Collaborating Centres, centres which excel in a specific (horizontal) field of veterinary science, such as for example training, wildlife, aquatic animals or food hygiene.



*World distribution of OIE Reference Laboratories. Map © OIE, 2010.*

Today, the OIE recognises 187 Reference Laboratories in 36 countries, covering 100 animal diseases. In the same way, it now recognises 35 Collaborating Centres in 20 countries, covering 33 subjects or themes.

Unfortunately, these centres and laboratories are mainly concentrated in the northern hemisphere, hence the need for the twinning programme in a bid to rectify this situation.

Africa has only 10 Reference Laboratories, concentrated in 4 establishments: OVI in South Africa (7), BVI in Botswana, IAVH-II in Morocco and EISMV in Senegal.

Three Collaborating Centres are recognised, including 2 in South Africa (OVI and UP) and one in Senegal (EISMV).

To date, 4 twinning agreements are operational, the majority aimed at strengthening diagnostic capacities on bird flu (avian influenza) and Newcastle disease. The other diseases are brucellosis, the CBPP and African horse sickness/bluetongue. The 'parent' Reference Laboratories are located at the United Kingdom, in Germany and Italy. The benefiting laboratories are located in South Africa, in Botswana, in Egypt, in Eritrea and in Morocco. Beyond the mere terrestrial diseases, an agreement is being set up between the University of Zambia (Lusaka) and the OIE Reference Laboratory for Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome in Bangkok, Thailand.

At global level, the most 'popular' diseases in terms of twinning agreements are avian influenza/Newcastle, CBPP, rabies, classical swine fever, African horse sickness/bluetongue and brucellosis.

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OIE TWINNING PROGRAMME – A PRACTICAL EXAMPLE FROM BOTSWANA (BNVL)

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*Kekgonne Edinton Baipoledi*

Chief Veterinary Officer  
Department of Veterinary Services  
Ministry of Agriculture,  
Gaborone, Botswana

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Capacity and expertise needs of developing or in-transition economies for effective surveillance and control of animal diseases as well as provision of reliable evidence to certify animals and animal products as safe for human consumption is a challenge. It is in recognition of this that programmes such as twinning set out by OIE provide a platform for assisting in this manner.

Twinning programme provides opportunity for developing scientifically competent laboratory diagnostic methods which will assist in progressing towards meeting the OIE standards.

It is possible for candidate laboratory to reach OIE reference status through this programme. At other times, the laboratory only get brought closer to OIE reference laboratory status by improving its standards in specific selected area.

The *Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory* has taken the path for both approaches, in order to improve certain specific areas, with one earmarked for OIE reference status.

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**OIE COLLABORATING CENTRE FOR TRAINING IN INTEGRATED LIVESTOCK  
AND WILDLIFE HEALTH AND MANAGEMENT**

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*Jacobus (Koos) Coetzer*

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Designated Expert  
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Collaborating Center on Training in Integrated Livestock and Wildlife Health and Management  
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Onderstepoort, South Africa

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Since May 2009, the *World Organisation for Animal Health* (OIE) has recognized the *Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases* (DVTD) and its consortium partners [University of Pretoria (*Centre for Veterinary Wildlife Studies, Department of Animal and Wildlife Sciences, Department of Agricultural Economics, Extension and Rural Development*); *Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute* (OVI), SA; Animal Health Department of the *Institute of Tropical Medicine* (ITM), Antwerp, Belgium; *National Institute for Communicable Diseases*, SA; Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, SA] as Collaborating Centre for *Training in Integrated Livestock and Wildlife Health and Management*. One of the major roles of the Collaborating Centre is to assist the OIE in developing and offering training in the management and health of livestock and wildlife with special emphasis on sub-Saharan Africa. The training will follow an integrated approach linking animal and human health, animal production, marketing and trade of animals and their products, land-use options, rural development, conservation and environmental health.

The information used for the training will be partly based on the material currently used in the successful web-based MSc programme in Veterinary Tropical Diseases that is organized jointly by the DVTD and ITM's Animal Health Department. This training material will be re-packaged in appropriate formats to support –undergraduate and postgraduate training as well as *Continuing Professional Development* (CPD).

To improve access to important veterinary information, the training material will be presented on an interactive electronic delivery platform called “VetHub”, which includes blogs, interactive course material, videos, quizzes and discussions. The information will be presented at an introductory and more detailed expert level, all accessible free of charge. Where accreditation for CPD is required (implying involvement of experts in evaluating quizzes and rewarding credit points) people will have to registered and pay a fee.

Moreover, to support animal health management, up-to-date synthesized information on outbreaks of specific high-impact diseases or important research development will be provided and made accessible to field personnel in the form of quarterly or 4-monthly electronic bulletins.

The VetHUB currently uses an Open Source Content Management System called *Joomla* for the Information Sharing Part and an Open Source Learning Management System, *Moodle*. The VetHub is currently being developed and it is envisaged that it will be opened at the end of 2010.

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## REGIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH CENTRES: THE FAO'S PERSPECTIVE

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*Susanne Münstermann*

Susanne Münstermann  
Regional Manager for Southern Africa  
Emergency Centre for Trans-boundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD)  
FAO  
Gaborone, Botswana

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The history and justification of the *Regional Animal Health Centres* (RAHC) collaboration mechanism between 2 international organisations (FAO and OIE) and the continental organization (AU-IBAR), was the pandemic threat of HPAI. FAO and OIE joint forces and thoughts on providing regions and countries with technical expertise closer to home than any of the two organizations could do from their respective Headquarters or their sub-regional and country representations. The continental organisation was brought on board to collaborate with giving guidance on policy issues and additional continental projects such as SPINAP-AHI and PAN-SPSO. The second reason for this unique grouping is the signing of the GF-TADs by FAO and OIE in 2004, with the clear mandate to implement this framework in close collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities. In this spirit, several RAHCs namely in Southern, East and West & Central Africa were set up during 2006-2007. The three organisations, now united under one roof, retain their core mandate but also aim at coming up with joint proposals and activities in order to demonstrate the “added value” aspect of this collaboration. At the same time the three organisations work closely together in order to fulfil a role of “clearing house” for interventions in the same area, for example in work on HPAI. This avoids duplication of effort, induces complementarity and optimal use of funds made available by different donors to the three organisations. FAO and OIE have so far signed a MoU to formalise the existence of the Centre, with co-signature by AU-IBAR awaited soon. In this MoU the Centre clearly stipulates its role to support SADC as the REC and its Member States in all technical aspects of coordination of the livestock sector. This is facilitated not only by the physical proximity of the Centre to the SADC Headquarters, but also by the close ties and longstanding working relationships. As examples it can be noted that the OIE Sub-Regional Representation has been set up with funds from a *Contribution Agreement* (CA) with a SADC project, funded by EU. On the FAO side, similar arrangements exist for two projects that are implemented by FAO through CAs with SADC projects, namely the SADC FMD and the SADC TADs project. The FAO CAs add value to these projects by making available the unique FAO expertise for selected and specific tasks. In the same spirit it has been proposed to SADC to recognise the Centre as a “Centre of Excellence” under the SADC subsidiarity principle. Such an arrangement would allow SADC to request the Centre to carry out projects on their behalf, if they do not have the technical or manpower capacity to do so.



*The Regional Animal Health Centre for Southern Africa in Gaborone (Botswana).  
From left to right : Juan Lubroth (CVO, FAO Rome), Bonaventure Mtei (SRR, OIE Gaborone),  
Susanne Münstermann (ECTAD, FAO Gaborone), Monique Eloit (DDG, OIE Paris)  
and Abdoulaye Bouna Niang (RRA, OIE Bamako).*

While the three organisations work together towards developing a comprehensive portfolio of joint projects and programs, to be offered to SADC and its Member States, the individual organisations continue engaging in their core mandates. For FAO ECTAD, this is the prompt, fast, technically sound response to emergency requests by countries. To name just a few recent engagements in this regard: (i) RVF outbreak in Madagascar in 2008: rapid response through three subsequent emergency projects, now being consolidated by a FAO – TCP; (ii) ASF outbreak in Mauritius in 2008: rapid response by fielding an initial mission and follow up by a FAO-TCP, now supporting the DVS to prepare for a voluntary declaration of ASF freedom to the OIE; (iii) Anthrax outbreak in Lesotho in 2008: rapid response through emergency funding of vaccinations.

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## THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

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*William Olaho-Mukani*

Delegate for Uganda  
President  
Regional Commission for Africa  
OIE  
Kampala, Uganda

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The *Office International des Epizooties* (OIE) was created on 25th January 1924 with its headquarters in Paris, through ratification of an agreement by 28 member countries. The Core Mandate of the OIE is “*the improvement of animal health throughout the world*”.

Vision of the OIE: “*The OIE will strive to become the pre-eminent world reference for animal health by accessing and producing comprehensive scientific knowledge and consensus on it. This knowledge will promote the improvement of international animal health for the benefit of animal production and trade world-wide and for the protection of public health*”. The mission of the OIE is: “*To convert international scientific data on animal health into information and transform information into knowledge products that meet the needs of Member Countries.*” In pursuit of this global mission and in conformity with its core mandate to improve animal health in the world and the decisions made by the International Committee, the following specific Missions (Mission Objectives) have now been established for the organisation:

- To ensure transparency in the global animal disease including zoonoses situation;
- To collect, analyse and disseminate relevant scientific information, especially on disease control methods and animal welfare;
- To provide expertise and encourage international solidarity in the control of animal diseases including zoonoses
- Within the mandate under the WTO SPS Agreement, to ensure safety of world trade in animals and animal products by publishing relevant health standards for such trade;
- To improve the legal framework, competency and resources of the national Veterinary Services, and particularly the international good components;
- To influence policy design, research and governance on worldwide issues concerning animal health and animal welfare;
- To provide a better guarantee of the safety of the food of animal origin from hazards originating in animal production; and
- To promote animal welfare through a science based approach.

The OIE is mandated by the *World Trade Organisation* (WTO) as a reference organisation to set sanitary standards for trade in animals and animal products. Currently OIE has a membership of 175, comprising member countries and Territories. The OIE also maintains permanent relationship with 36 other regional and international organisations and has regional and sub-regional representation on every continent.

Structurally of the OIE comprises: *World Assembly of Delegates* at the top from the 175 members designated by the governments of Member Countries.; followed by the *Council* (the Administrative Commission) comprising of the President of World Assembly, the Vice-President, the Past President, and six delegates; the *Director General* and his team; *Regional Commissions; Specialist Commissions; Regional representations, Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories; Working Groups and Ad Hoc Groups*. Day-to-day operations of the OIE are managed by the Headquarter situated in Paris and placed under the responsibility of the Director General and his team. The Director General is elected by the World assembly of Delegates. The Headquarters implement the resolutions passed by the International Committee (*World Assembly of Delegates*) with the support of Commissions elected by Delegates.

While the Regional representations may be considered as decentralised executive bodies of the OIE, the Regional Commissions are constituted by the national OIE delegates and are entrusted with policy development at regional level. The OIE Regional Commission for Africa forms part of the 5 Regional Commissions of the OIE, of the OIE to address specific problems of National Veterinary Services, and to coordinate and organise cooperation at national level. The Regional Commission Bureau is constituted of a President, two Vice-Presidents and a Secretary General. The Bureau is renewed every three years. Set up in 2001, renewed in 2003 and 2006, the current Bureau was elected in 2009.

The Regional Commissions organises every two years an OIE Regional conference devoted to technical and regional cooperation issues with regard to the fight against animal diseases and zoonoses. These conferences take place in one of the counties of the African region. The Regional Commission submits the accounts of its activities and recommendations to the International Committee of the OIE. Since its formation in 2001, the OIE Regional Commission for Africa has held 5 meetings in several African countries. The next Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa will take place in Kigali, Rwanda in Feb. 2011.

# Session 2

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## The WTO and the SPS Agreement



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## GENERAL PRINCIPLES

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*Alex Thiermann*

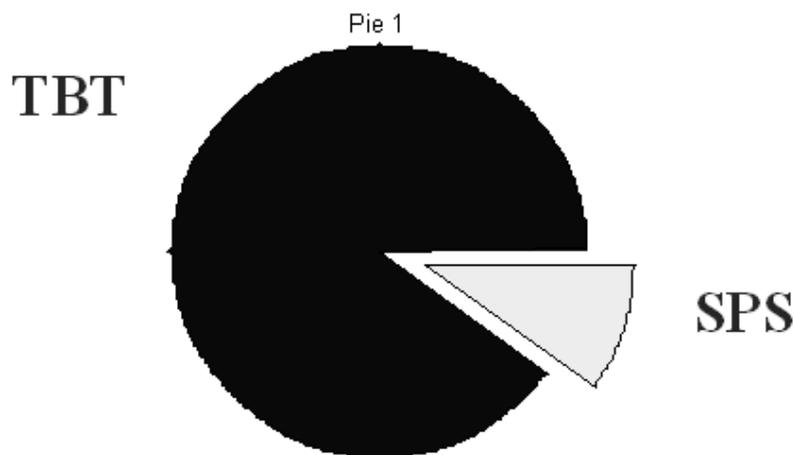
President  
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The *Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary* (SPS) Agreement of the *World Trade Organisation* (WTO) was developed because there was a need to remove non-tariff barriers to trade, because the GATT article XX(b) needed clearer rules and overall, to concentrate on SPS measures. The SPS was driven by the fact that tariffs and subsidies were become obsolete and illegal, and therefore countries started using “*health*” reasons for trade restrictions. This made it necessary to place disciplines in how and when health reasons could be used.

Article XXb of the GATT Agreement does mention that countries can take measures to protect from public, animal and plant health risks, but it is just a paragraph and it does not give any details as to how to do this. Hence, this Agreement concentrates on describing the conditions for when it is appropriate to restrict trade on health grounds.

It is important to understand that the *Technical Barriers to Trade* (TBT) Agreement coming from the Tokyo Round of the GATT, is the precursor of the SPS. This means that the SPS was drafted taking the TBT into account and extracting from it only the aspects related to health. The important aspect of this concept is that SPS is very prescriptive as to what it covers. Whatever is not covered by the SPS, is automatically covered by the TBT. This means that there are no issues that can fall between the two. Another way of saying this, is that if one has an issue, one should first see if it falls within the parameters of the SPS, if not, then it will automatically become a TBT issue.



*Relative importance of SPS disputes as compared to TBT-related disputes : technical barriers to trade*

The structure of the SPS Agreement contains provisions on (a) rights, (b) obligations and disciplines, (c) special provisions and (d) dispute settlement mechanisms. Note that rights are mentioned first, and that without these sovereign rights given to each country, the Agreement would have never been signed. The SPS Agreement does not cover measures to protect, for example, the environment, consumer interests or animal welfare. However, it is important to note that while these issues are not addressed specifically, they are covered in part. In the case of the environment, it is covered as long as it has to do with protecting the health aspects of this environment. For example, the health of wild flora and fauna (national forests, wildlife, etc) are covered. In the case of consumer concerns, the SPS does not allow for restrictions because these are simply concerns of the consumer. However, if any of these are related to the health of humans, animals, and/or plants, then they are covered by the SPS.

The purpose of the SPS Agreement can be summarized as follows :

- Members have rights to take SPS measures to protect human, animal, or plant health
- Measures must be based on science
- Measures must not be used as a disguised restriction to trade

Indeed, each Member Country has the right to apply measures to protect health, *EVEN* if these are more restrictive than those of international standards and recommendations, *AS LONG AS* these are based on science and are not disguised restrictions to trade. Hence, the SPS Agreement has significant consequences to the OIE.

The concept of scientific justification, mentioned in Art. 2, § 2, means that measures must be based on scientific principles, cannot be maintained without sufficient scientific evidence and must only be applied to the extent necessary to protect health

In terms of rights and obligations, this means that any importing country has the right to adopt health measures to achieve the level of protection it determines appropriate to protect the life and health of its human, animal and plant populations (appropriate level of protection or ALOP). Such measures may be based on (a) a health measure based on an international standard, if one exists, unless there is scientific justification for a stronger measure; or (b) if a country decides it needs a higher level of protection than the standard provides, in which case, a health measure must be based on a risk analysis

The concept of justified measures entails that an SPS measure must not discriminate arbitrarily or unjustifiably between countries where identical or similar conditions exist e.g. regarding animal health status and that an SPS measure must not be more trade restrictive than necessary to achieve the importing country's desired level of protection. One must therefore take into account technical and economic feasibility and can't ban imports to protect e.g. the national industry

Article 3 deals with harmonization of measures. It recognizes that while each country can take its own measures, they are encouraged to take the standards from international organizations into consideration. This is more likely to result in harmonized approaches. There are three standard-setting organizations recognized by the SPS : OIE for the purpose of animal health and zoonoses (diseases transmitted from animals to man); the Codex Alimentarius for purposes of public health and food safety; and the IPPC for plant health.

Art. 5 deals with risk analysis. There are only two basic alternatives for making a scientific justification : the short and simple one is to base the decision on an existing international standard, the other is to make a risk analysis and then determine the measures on the basis of the outcome of risk analysis. Note that the SPS calls these risk assessments and not risk analysis as it is the international convention.

Risk analysis documentation provides guidance for decision-makers, adds transparency to the process and provides a framework for restrictions imposed on imports (imports restrictions must be commensurate with the documented risks). It is possible that a country may take measures for reasons other than health related. These could be political, societal, etc, but this process will force clarification of these reasons. It also encourages to demonstrate that each measure is aimed at protecting against an identified risk and no more restrictive than necessary to protect against that risk.

Sharing risk analysis data will encourage consistency between countries, while preserving each country's right to determine its own *appropriate level of protection* (ALOP). In doing so, various countries can use the same when conducting their own risk analyses.

Equivalence (art 4, A:3 [a]) is a very important SPS concept. Equivalency encourages countries to focus on the outcome and not the method. It states that there are different ways of protecting health in different countries. Members shall accept the sanitary or phytosanitary measures of other members as equivalent, even if these measures differ from their own or from those used by other members trading the same product... . For example, if countries want to prevent the entry of fruit flies by requiring fumigation of the commodity before it is imported, an equivalent measure could be the cold treatment of the product, provided the exporting country can demonstrate that the cold treatment provides the same level of protection. This of course requires reasonable access to data and bilateral consultations

Regionalisation (art. 6) allows countries to recognize disease-free and areas of low disease prevalence, considers geographic/ecologic borders, requires exporting country to have strong veterinary infrastructures, puts the burden of proof on the exporting country and requires reasonable access to data and information. This is particularly important for large countries. In the case of small countries, trying to establish the necessary internal control measures could be more costly than eradicating a pest throughout the entire country.

Such principles are very much in line with e.g. OIE international reporting obligations as laid down in the Codes : (a) to make available to other members, through the OIE, whatever information is necessary to minimise the spread of important animal diseases and to assist in achieving better worldwide control of these diseases, and (b) to report the presence of any listed disease, as well as the detection of any epidemiological event of significance.

The formal and informal dispute settlement procedures consist of discussions at meetings of the SPS committee, Good Offices by the chair of the SPS committee and the overall WTO settlement mechanism. The latter requires a phase 1, a compulsory preliminary stage (consultation process of 60 days to try to find a mutually agreed solution). Only if no agreement is found, is phase 2 initiated : a panel established by the *Dispute Settlement Body* (DSB).

Specifically for animal health disputes, the OIE also offers mediation provisions : if requested by Member Countries, the OIE may act as 'mediator' to help resolve differences on a particular technical issue. This OIE mediation is a science-based, not legal-based, process, it is voluntary and the outcomes are not binding, unless agreed at start. OIE experts will discuss the issues and aim at finding a common ground solution, not to identify the "guilty" party. This process can be an alternative or a precursor to the formal WTO dispute resolution process.

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## WHAT ABOUT PRIVATE STANDARDS ?

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*Hugo Hays*

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Within the context of the Agricultural and Food sector, Private Standards is a moniker given to the activities surrounding “sets of requirements” addressing certain aspects of the production of livestock, crops and food. The type of requirements covered include food safety, environmental and welfare (animal and human) aspects of food production. These standards are voluntary (not statutory), and serve as a tool which interested stakeholders use to communicate the principles of the objective being sought by the standard. In turn they also serve as yardsticks against which the reality of food production processes can be compared (through use of audits, tests or other evaluatory tools) and level of compliance established. Private Standards are therefore not just a document with requirements, but cover a whole range of activities including drafting, consultation, field testing, publication, implementation, verification, certification and review. Private Standards vary widely in the scope of coverage of the food production chain, as a rule they can be divided into pre-farm gate and post-farm gate, although some cover both. Traceability of certified product is a key element in food production, however there is no common system for identifying and tracing products. Some standards concentrate very particularly on certain aspects such as MRLs or animal welfare, and go beyond the levels required by legislation.

A large and varied number of Private Standards have been developed, behind each of which there is an equally numerous and eclectic array of stakeholder groupings such as animal welfare organizations, environmental groups, farmer organisations, food processor associations, food retailer organizations, etc. During the development process some standards have a much wider consultation process (such as GlobalGAP) than others (such as in-house private retailer standards). Equally some are accredited (meaning that the auditing bodies need to be accredited according to ISO 17021) whilst others are audited by in-house staff. Furthermore, some standards keep track of certificates issued by Certification Bodies against that standard, whilst others do not have any central system for verifying certificate authenticity.

Private Standards generally incorporate or implicitly assume compliance to legislation related to food production, and rarely preach “weaker” requirements, rather it is common for them to set out “stricter” requirements, i.e. by referring to international agreements where no legislation exists in a certain country. Effectively Private Standards can be considered as voluntary “add-ons” to underlying legislation or accepted international standards, such as ISO, OIE, IPPC and Codex Standards and Codes of Practice, ILO Convention, etc.

The fundamental principle on which the WTO SPS Agreement is based on is an acceptance of “equivalence of risk-outcome”. This means that as long as the final imported products (outcome) pass official controls in the country of production (e.g. MRLs), the importing country does not look into the process in which food products are produced or processed in the country of production. In contrast, private standards require “equivalence of systems”.

Since there is an internationally established mechanism for setting up scientifically based, technical specifications for which there is an international consensus and discussion forum at governmental level (the Three Sisters and the WTO and its SPS Agreement), then why do Private Standards, with all the perceived confusion they seem to bring, need to exist? What is their added value? What advantages/disadvantages do they bring? How do they interact with the official OIE, IPPC and Codex standards ? These questions are tackled in the presentation made at this seminar.



*Impact of food-borne diseases in humans  
in the United States : foreclosure.*

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## WHAT ABOUT ANIMAL WELFARE ?

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Animal welfare is a component of a responsible animal industry, currently known to support more than a billion people worldwide. Animal welfare is closely linked with human welfare; humans need products of animal origin for food or otherwise but in return animals need to be well looked after to be productive.

Today animal welfare has become a science of its own right but often mixed with emotions and cultural differences. In principle, however it is acknowledged that the “Five Freedoms” are generally accepted as good animal welfare practices. Animal welfare is also linked to all the 8 MDGs except the 2nd one on universal primary education.

According to the OIE Definition, animal welfare is how an animal deals with the conditions in which it lives to be healthily, comfortable, , well fed, safe and able to express natural behavior.

Animal welfare was first introduced into the OIE agenda during the 3rd Strategic plan (2001-2005). Since then 2 global conferences on animal welfare have been held in Paris (2004) and Cairo (2008), the outcomes of which have informed the adoption of the OIE Standards contained in the TAHC Section 7 Chapters 7.1 – 7.7

OIE member countries are in agreement that animal welfare objectives must clearly be defined on the basis of political, cultural and commercial interests. Clearly animals cannot have better lives than their owners. Improving well being of low income animal owners should be given priority in any efforts to improve animal welfare.

OIE appreciates the need to promote collaboration and partnerships with stakeholders in developing animal welfare strategies based on local knowledge and prevailing practices at regional, sub regional and national levels.

Ongoing work of the OIE to improve performance of VSs will amongst other things also address animal welfare issues including legislations. This work is expected to create more awareness on animal welfare and understanding of its significance for a successful animal health and production. Capacity building on animal welfare should engage animal owners, workers, rural communities and local animal health and production managers.

Since animal welfare is not incorporated into the WTO-SPS Agreement, OIE is well placed using its dispute settlement mechanism to assist in resolving bilateral or multilateral trade arrangements failing to agree on animal welfare issues.



# Session 3

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## The OIE Codes and Manuals



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## CODES, MANUALS AND ASSOCIATED STANDARDS

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*Alex Thiermann*

President  
Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission  
OIE  
Paris, France

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OIE Specialist Commissions (a) use current scientific information, (b) study problems of epidemiology and the prevention and control of animal diseases, (c) develop and revise OIE international standards and (d) address scientific and technical issues raised by Member Countries. However, they do not deal with bilateral trade problems (which may be addressed through mediation)

The specialist commissions are (a) the terrestrial animal health standards commission or Code Commission, (b) the scientific commission for animal diseases (SCAD) or Scientific Commission, (c) the biological standards commission or Laboratories Commission and (d) the aquatic animal health standards commission (AAHSC) or Aquatic Animals Commission.

The Code Commission is responsible for updating the Terrestrial Animal Health Code annually and for ensuring that it reflects current scientific information. The members of this Commission are : Dr. Alejandro (Alex) Thiermann, President; Dr. Etienne Bonbon, Vice-President; Dr. Jorge Caetano Junior, Secretary and Dr. Stuart MacDiarmid, Dr. Stuart Hargreaves and Dr. Ahmed Mustafa Hassan, as Members.

The Scientific Commission assists in identifying the most appropriate strategies and measures for: disease surveillance, disease prevention and control, and examines Member Countries submissions regarding their animal health status for countries that wish to be included on the OIE official list of free countries and zones for certain diseases. The members of this Commission are : Dr. Gideon Bruckner, President; Dr. Kris de Clerq, Vice-President; Dr. Kenichi Sakamoto, Secretary and Dr. Thomas Mettenleiter, Dr. Hassan Abdel Aziz Aidaros and Dr. Sergio Duffy, as Members.

The Laboratories Commission establishes or approves methods for diagnosing diseases of mammals, birds and bees, testing biological products, such as vaccines, used for control purposes. It oversees the production of the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals. The members are : Dr. Vincenzo Caporale, President; Dr. Beverly Schmitt, Vice-President; Dr. Medhi El Harrak, Secretary and Dr. Hualan Chen, Dr. Alejandro Schudel and Dr. Paul Townsend, as Members.

Finally, the Aquatic Animals Commission compiles information on diseases of fish, molluscs and crustaceans, and on methods used to control these diseases. The Commission is responsible for updating the Aquatic Animal Health Code and the Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals. The members are : Dr. Barry Hill, President; Dr. Ricardo Enriquez, Vice-President; Dr. Frank Berthe, Secretary and Dr. Huang Jie, Dr. Olga Haenen and Dr. Victor Manuel Vidal as Members.

The OIE develops and publishes health standards for trade in animals and animal products and biological standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines. These are adopted by OIE Members during the General Session each May. This is the one and only pathway for adoption

The standards are :

- Terrestrial Animal Health Code
- Aquatic Animal Health Code
- Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals
- Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals

The Codes contain recommended health measures to be used by veterinary services or other competent authorities to establish health regulations for the safe importation of animals and animal products, while avoiding unjustified trade restrictions. In addition, the OIE has extended its scope of influence and expertise into animal welfare and food safety.

Basic principles are : WTO obligations are complied with provided the Codes are used correctly, importing countries are assumed to be free of a specific disease or with a control programme for that disease and measures take account of :

- assessment of risk factors in real world situation
- quality of veterinary services / competent authorities
- zoning and compartmentalization
- disease surveillance and timely notification

The latter four points account for credible health certification for traded commodities

The *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (TAHC), in its general approach, is very similar to the Aquatic Code. Both contain generic (horizontal) chapters with general definitions, obligations and ethics in international trade, disease notification, import risk analysis methodology, evaluation of veterinary services, and import/export procedures. The specific chapters contain information on diseases for live animals, genetic material and products of animal origin (meat, milk, hides / skins) and covering diseases of mammals e.g. FMD, BSE; birds e.g. AI. or ND and bees e.g. fowlbrood. Each chapter will contain articles on (a) the description of the pathogen / disease, (b) determining status of a country, zone or compartment, (c) 'safe' commodities irrespective of status (if possible), and (d) recommendations for 'unsafe' commodities. Appendices to the Terrestrial Code will specify standards on (a) collection and processing of semen and embryos/ova, (b) disease surveillance - general and disease specific, (c) inactivation of pathogens and vectors, (d) animal welfare, (e) food safety and (f) antimicrobial resistance. It also contains model veterinary certificates for live animals and products of animal origin.



Influences on standards (i.e. the standard-setting process) are exerted by (a) EXPORTING countries seeking for less restrictions; (b) IMPORTING countries seeking for maximum protection (e.g avian influenza), (c) producers / consumers / NGOs and (d) ethics and public health protection.

Equivalence, mentioned in the SPS Agreement, is translated in standards of the OIE, i.e. the estimation of risks associated with importation and choice of appropriate risk management option(s) are made more difficult by differences among animal health and production systems. It is now recognised that significantly different systems can provide the same level of animal and human health protection. This principle benefits to both importing and exporting countries. Code guidelines assist OIE Members to determine whether sanitary measures arising from different systems may provide the same level of protection, discusses principles common to all judgments of equivalence, including for aquatic animal health and outline a step-wise process for trading partners to follow in facilitating a judgment of equivalence. Equivalence may apply at the level of specific measures or on a systems-wide basis, or to specific areas of trade or commodities or generally. It is essential to apply a scientific risk analysis to the extent practicable in establishing the basis for a judgment of equivalence.

### Critical aspects of the Code

- do not use the Codes as textbooks on diseases
- use them as international standards to evaluate and determine measures to protect animal health in the trade of animals and animal products
- ensure that the application of the standards for national health measures are in accordance with obligations under the SPS Agreement
- use the Guidelines for the Evaluation of Veterinary Services as an essential baseline
- use the Codes to establish baseline arguments to establish equivalence in trade negotiations
- use the Codes to establish most cost-effective risk mitigation measures for trade
- use the Codes and Manuals to challenge scientific unjustifiable sanitary measures of trading partners

OIE Members have international reporting obligations as laid down in the Codes. They must make available to other members, through the OIE, whatever information is necessary to minimise the spread of important animal diseases and to assist in achieving better worldwide control of these diseases. OIE Members have to report the presence of any listed disease, as well as the detection of any epidemiological event of significance

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## AQUATIC ANIMAL DISEASES AND BIOLOGICAL STANDARDS

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*David Huchzermeyer*

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Aquatic Animal Health Specialist  
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Remote from burgeoning aquaculture developments in the rest of the world, Africa has, until recently, enjoyed a relatively low disease impact on its aquatic animals. The African continent has in many areas unique species diversity with large subsistence fishing communities depending entirely on these resources. One of the most pristine aquatic ecosystems in southern Africa has recently come under pressure with the 2006 outbreak of *Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome* (EUS) in the Chobe and upper Zambezi rivers. These rivers border four countries- Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. EUS, a disease exotic to Africa, illustrates the far-reaching implications posed by unregulated international movement of fish. The impact of this disease may potentially affect the future livelihoods of thousands of subsistence fishing communities as well as potential exports from aquaculture developments in this region.

Early colonial settlers introduced salmonid and other European and North American fishes into southern Africa where ever suitable waters could be found. Inherent difficulties transporting fish to Africa, kept such exotic fish populations distant from many serious diseases emerging under intensive aquaculture elsewhere in the world. Many of these are now notifiable to the OIE. Early adherence to strict import regulations, and in the case of South Africa rigorous disease testing procedures, have helped maintain a disease-free status of farmed salmonids in the region, making them a desired source of eyed ova for Northern Hemisphere trout farms. To this day South African farms exporting salmonid ova can guarantee freedom from OIE notifiable salmonid diseases.



*Necrosis of gills in a carp due to koi herpes virus infection. Picture © David Huchzermeyer.*

Numerous parasitic diseases have been spread around the world by movement of common carp and a multitude of ornamental fish. These parasites, which may cause serious problems locally, are now ubiquitous in many countries of the world and disease status guarantees for such diseases are thus seldom required. In South Africa, as in other countries, ambiguities in import legislation have allowed the unrestricted importation of koi, the ornamental variety of carp. The danger inherent in such poorly regulated movement of fish by airfreight is illustrated by the recent emergence of a previously unknown disease of carp. *Koi herpes virus* disease (KHV) appeared almost simultaneously in koi on various continents during 1998. Major outbreaks followed in food carp fisheries in many countries and continue to this day. As a consequence some of the most lucrative markets for koi are now accessible only to producers whose competent authorities can provide the relevant disease free guarantees.

To facilitate fair trade between countries and to access lucrative markets, competent authorities need the capacity to meet legislative requirements of importing countries. In Africa, as in other countries, there is increasing pressure on aquaculture to meet the shortfall in consumable fish. This has potential to contribute significantly to job creation, and economies in Africa. In order to be economically viable, investment in aquaculture needs access to the best possible markets. These markets are often export markets that place stringent demands for disease status and food safety certification. Along the southern African coast, culture of abalone has become a significant economic activity and export of this highly sought after shellfish is dependant on the ability of the responsible authorities to provide guarantees required by potential importing countries. Other mariculture activities will face similar demands once production exceeds local consumption.

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## ZONING, COMPARTMENTALIZATION AND CONTAINMENT ZONING

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*Stuart K. Hargreaves (presented by Alex Thiermann)*

Delegate for Zimbabwe  
Member  
Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission  
OIE  
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Zoning and compartmentalisation are procedures that can be implemented by a country under the provisions of Chapters 4.3 and 4.4 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code with a view to defining subpopulations of animals with a distinct health status within its territory for the purpose of disease control and/or international trade. While zoning applies to an animal subpopulation defined primarily on a geographical basis (using natural, artificial or legal boundaries), compartmentalisation applies to an animal subpopulation defined primarily by management and husbandry practices related to biosecurity.

Through the application of zoning and compartmentalization a country can focus its often limited resources to maintaining the integrity of the zone or compartment rather than attempting to gain freedom from a particular disease within the whole country.

Containment zones can be applied when a limited outbreak of disease occurs in a free country or zone, and where the outbreak can be isolated and eradicated by stamping out of the infected areas. The containment zone becomes operational only after there has been no new cases of disease after two incubation periods after the last case.

When the containment zone is operational, the country can resume trade from areas outside the containment zone, provided there is increased surveillance within and outside the containment zone. The area within the containment area can be recognized as a disease free area for any particular disease by following the provisions of the disease specific chapter of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

### *Definitions*

It is important to recognize the difference between a zone, a containment zone and a compartment, and the definitions as described in the Code are as follows;

#### Zone

*means a clearly defined part of a country containing an animal subpopulation with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease for which required surveillance, control and biosecurity measures have been applied for the purpose of international trade*

#### Containment Zone

*means a defined zone around and including suspected or infected establishments taking into account the epidemiological factors and results of investigations, where control measures to prevent the spread of infection are applied*

## Compartment

*means one or more establishments under a common biosecurity management system containing an animal subpopulation with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease or specific diseases for which required surveillance, control and biosecurity measures have been applied for the purpose of international trade.*



*Building farms with compartmentalisation in mind. Picture © OIE.*

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## IDENTIFICATION, REGISTRATION AND TRACEABILITY

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*Kerapetse Sehularo*

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The OIE, in close collaboration with the *Codex Alimentarius Commission* (CAC), have established common definitions for animal traceability and set standards/guidelines (OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* Chapter 4.1 and 4.2 and CAC/GL 60-2006) for the development of identification and traceability systems.

Traditionally animal identification was motivated by ownership rather than health reasons. Today animal identification and traceability are generally motivated by animal health and food safety. In many countries especially those trading in animals and animal products, traceability of animals and products of animal origin is a legal requirement to ensure compliance with trade requirements. Traceability system is founded on the ability to identify individual animals or homogenous groups of animals, the ability to track their movements, proper identification of premises, recording information in appropriate registers (registration) and supported by appropriate legislative framework. Any effective animal identification and traceability system is dependent on participation of all stakeholders. Animal identification and traceability system should achieve traceability throughout the animal production and food chain in line with international standards set by OIE and CAC– production continuum.

The design and implementation of the Animal ID and traceability system key elements that are taken into consideration, include definition of the objectives of the system, desired outcomes, scope of the system and performance criteria. Preliminary studies should be undertaken to assess the current situation.

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## APPLYING ZONING – THE EXAMPLE OF BOTSWANA FOR BEEF EXPORTS

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Botswana has been exporting beef to the European market since she attained independence in 1966 despite the fact that she has a significant population of buffalo, the reservoir host for FMD. This has been made possible by a good bio-security method put in place in the country which has a network of cordon fences and quarantines for this purpose.

The country has practiced zoning with respect to FMD and this has facilitated export to the European Union Market. The concept behind the principle is to separate animals that are affected by the disease from those that are not affected and are still exportable. The country has to put in place the following in order to satisfy the importing country there is no risk of importing the disease:-

- Separation of compartment from potential source of infection by fences
- Documentation of control measures
- Surveillance for disease agent
- Diagnostic capabilities and procedures
- Emergency response and notification
- Supervision and control of a compartment

Fence construction in Botswana dates back to 1952 with construction of a bush fence from Lephephe to Dibete. By 1954 proper fences were constructed between Ngamiland and Gantsi, Ngami and Boteti and Central district and Kgatleng/Kweneng which were complete by 1958. This marked the beginning of zoning boundaries. Fencing is particularly effective in this country because FMD is predominantly spread by animal movement and aerosol spread is almost non-existent in the country. Though initially meant for FMD control fences have been very useful against other diseases of livestock particularly.

Botswana has four basic zones, buffalo zones, vaccinated zones and OIE recognized FMD free zones and stock free zones which are clearly defined legislated and only the free zone exports to the EU. There are major advantages in the set up and outbreaks of FMD have been confined to fenced areas (zones) and the others have been allowed to export to the EU and regional SACU markets. The biggest challenges associated with this control strategy is maintaining and keeping fences intact especially in wildlife rich areas of the country.

This is the only strategy that can be employed by African countries in order for them to have access to global markets. This paper clearly defines how zoning in Botswana works.

# Session 4

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## Rights & obligations of OIE Member Countries & OIE Delegates



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**PERCEPTIONS OF OIE DELEGATES : BOTSWANA**

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*T. K. Phillemon-Motsu*

OIE Delegate  
Director  
Department of Veterinary Services  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Gaborone, Botswana

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In Botswana, the Veterinary Authority is represented by the *Department of Veterinary Services (DVS)* of the *Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)*. All the following competences reside with the Veterinary Authority, although some competencies are also shared with :

1. (terrestrial) Animal health : exclusive
2. (aquatic) Animal health : Ministry of Environment , Wildlife & Tourism
3. (wildlife) Animal health : exclusive
4. Animal health (food safety) : exclusive
5. Animal health (veterinary drugs) : Drugs Regulatory Unit, Min. of Health
6. Animal welfare : exclusive

The focal points for Botswana are the following :

1. Animal diseases notification : Neo J. MAPITSE
2. Aquatic animal health : Bernard MBEHA
3. Wildlife : Neo J. MAPITSE
4. Animal production food safety : Kerapetse SEHULARO
5. Veterinary drugs and biologicals : Kekgonne E. BAIPOLEDI
6. Animal welfare : Kerapetse SEHULARO

As a Delegate, my roles include the following :

1. Involved in the OIE evaluation of Veterinary Services using the PVS tool.
2. Notification requirements to the OIE (immediate and 6-monthly)
3. Involved in the national /zonal disease freedom recognition processes
4. Annual declarations of disease/infection freedom (FMD zones article 8.5.4), (Rinderpest art 8.12.2), (CBPP art 11.9.3) done annually by November.
5. Responses to draft OIE standards and guidelines
6. Appointment of focal points
7. Attendance of OIE regional commission and world assembly meetings
8. Administrative responsibilities towards OIE (Accommodation of RAHC-SA)
9. Financial responsibilities towards OIE ( category 5 at Euro 28 750.00)
10. Involved in the WTO-SPS Agreement with focus on international trade of animals and animal products (DVS houses the SPS *National Enquiry Point* or NEP)

One of the main challenges is the continued presence /outbreaks of trans-boundary animal diseases such as FMD in the region and their impact on trade of animals and animal products. It would be useful for OIE to facilitate commodity-based trade. This would improve farmers' income in the affected areas and reduce environmental degradation.

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## PERCEPTIONS OF OIE DELEGATES : CAMEROON

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*Baschirou Moussa Demsa*

OIE Delegate  
Director  
Department of Veterinary Services  
Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries  
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The role of the country Delegate in the OIE is a great honour for the person holding that office as it is a noble and inspiring task, particularly since it is normally carried out by the person in charge of Veterinary Services in that country. In actual fact, the usefulness and influence of these services goes far beyond national borders and consequently are considered today as an international public asset. Holding this office therefore requires a profound understanding from the person who takes it on as well as perfect mastery of subjects related to animal health and to public veterinary health. Administratively and technically the Delegate must have contacts with Ministries responsible for public health, agriculture, forests and wildlife, environment and nature conservation, research, the economy, trade and external relations. To facilitate its task, the Government as a whole must be informed and regularly kept abreast of all resolutions taken by the OIE in the course of its various general meetings and must carry out a policy aimed at their implementation.

A review of a few fundamentals which enable measurement of the degree of commitment and involvement of each country in the realization of the ideals of the OIE shows that our country is not yet in step with this organisation's strategic plan whose main purpose is essentially prescriptive. The following points are relevant:

- The rights and obligations of Cameroon as a OIE Member Country and its Delegate,
- The involvement of Cameroon in the WTO SPS agreement on international trade of animals and animal products,
- The involvement of Cameroon in the OIE PVS process for the evaluation of Veterinary Services,
- The notification requirements to the OIE (immediate and bi-annual),
- The involvement of Cameroon in the recognition processes of countries or zones which are disease free,
- Annual statements confirming the absence of diseases/infections,
- Reactions to projects in respect of OIE standards and guidelines and the appointment of focal points,
- Participation in OIE regional commissions and global meetings,
- Administrative responsibilities in terms of the OIE,
- Financial responsibilities in terms of the OIE.



*Cameroon declared free from rinderpest-disease.*

Thus, in order to remedy this situation, the main challenge facing the Cameroon Delegate at the OIE consists in implementing the strategy adopted by the OIE namely, the standardisation of veterinary services with the help of the appropriate human resources such as the focal points for example. Furthermore, it will imply holding a good communications campaign to cause the authorities to allocate adequate resources to the functioning of veterinary services, to have relevant laws voted in and to take up texts for their implementation. It would also involve acting in such a way that the public at large appropriates and defends the ideals of the OIE, thanks to the popularisation of this organisation's fundamental principles.

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## PERCEPTIONS OF OIE DELEGATES : GABON

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*Morgan Bignoumba*

OIE Delegate

Head

Veterinary Service

Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Food Security and Rural Development

Libreville, Gabon

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Challenges encountered in the exercise of the functions of oie delegate

- Veterinary legislation in Gabon is not only obsolete but quasi non-existent. This is the first major obstacle that we meet in our work. The legal framework does not give us full powers;
- The veterinary services are badly structured, and their role is little or poorly known to the public at large or by other administrations. There is no veterinary chain of command. Therefore the role of the OIE delegate is marginalised. As delegates, therefore, we have difficulties in fulfilling our governing missions;
- The resources (human, financial, logistic) allocated to the veterinary services and in particular to the veterinarian are ridiculous in a country like Gabon, an oil-producing country. The OIE delegate does not have enough staff at his disposal and is not even provided with a car;
- The monitoring of animal diseases, the control of veterinary medicines, for example, are rendered problematic by the absence of the tradition of the breeder, the shortage of qualified human resources and of the means to do the job.

Suggestions

- The OIE must help Gabon equip itself with veterinary legislation adapted to present standards so that the delegate can do his work properly;
- The OIE must make a direct plea (awareness mission for example) to the Gabonese authorities to raise awareness not only of OIE missions throughout the world, and of delegated rights and duties, but also of the need to provide veterinary services and delegates in particular with the resources needed to do their jobs;
- The OIE must strengthen the capacity of the delegate and his focuses by offering ongoing professional training.

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## PERCEPTIONS OF OIE DELEGATES : MADAGASCAR

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*Lanto Tiana Razafimanantsoa*

OIE Delegate  
Director  
Department of Veterinary Services  
Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries  
Antananarivo, Madagascar

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Dr RAZAFIMANANTSOA Lanto Tiana has been appointed by the State of Madagascar as delegate with voting rights representing the government in the OIE assembly. The appointment has been made by means of an official notification to the Director General of the OIE. Madagascar has been a member of the WTO since 1996. We have benefited from OIE missions for example:

- Evaluation of veterinary services in June 2007
- Amalgamation of veterinary laboratories in April 2008.
- Veterinary legislation in April 2008.
- Gap-analysis and financial bridging of these gaps in December 2008.

It is the *Veterinary Administration* through the delegate who notified the OIE of all re-appearance of disease in Madagascar. Madagascar is free of : foot and mouth disease, rinderpest and CBPP.

The delegate makes sure that the zoosanitary legislation in his country is based on the OIE's reference standards. The delegate may also appoint national focal points with the agreement of his superiors. A Malagasy delegation led by its delegate participates every year in the OIE general Meeting. The delegate presents the following at each general session of the meeting:

- a report on the health situation and control methods applied in his country.
- notifies the OIE of any animal diseases present in the member state.

The delegate ensures that the meeting's resolutions are applied in his country if these depend on his national activities. Madagascar is up to date in terms of its annual OIE subscription.

Challenges: THE STANDARDISATION OF VETERINARY SERVICES IN MADAGASCAR. The Malagasy DSV is attempting to convince leaders of the importance of conformity with OIE regulations. It has produced two documents on this question, called:

“Quality policy of veterinary services”

“Strategic plan of veterinary services”

Suggestions: The Malagasy DSV requests:

- The OIE's support through other organisations (FAO, EU,...) in convincing the country's leaders of the importance of the bringing up to standard of the VS.
- The OIE's support in our requests for finance from potential donors (WB, IMF, EU,....).

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PERCEPTIONS OF OIE DELEGATES : SENEGAL

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*Mbargou Lô*

OIE Delegate  
Head  
Zoo-sanitary Protection Division  
Ministry of Animal Husbandry  
Dakar, Senegal

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Challenges

- Strengthening of the diagnostic capacities for animal diseases at the laboratories;
- Strengthening of the capacity to control animal and animal products;
- Availability of sufficient and properly qualified staff to comply with the mission assigned to the veterinary services, and compliance with the single chain of command;
- Sensitization of authorities on the rights and obligations of OIE Member Countries and their Delegates;
- Strengthening the cooperation between the veterinary authority and the competent authorities in charge of wildlife, and of aquatic animal diseases;
- Efficacious participation in the work of the Regional Commission;
- Continued notification of OIE listed animal diseases, while using WAHIS;
- Annual confirmation of the status of country freedom from rinderpest;
- Extension of simplified OIE standards to all stakeholders.

Suggestions to the OIE :

- Support in meeting standards for veterinary services;
- Support in the sensitization of authorities on the rights and obligations of OIE Member Countries and their Delegates;
- Training of the focal points in charge of wildlife and aquatic animal diseases;
- Support in achieving a wider understanding of the OIE standards, by organising a workshop;
- Support to the participation in the work of the Regional Commission.

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## DESIGNATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF OIE FOCAL POINTS

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*Daniel Bourzat*

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The first part of this presentation points out the fundamental principles regarding the quality of the veterinary services. The following points were developed:

- Professional judgement
- Independence
- Impartiality
- Integrity
- Objectivity and transparency

In terms of general organisation, Veterinary Services must be able to show their capacities with respect to :

- programming and implementation of activities
- prevention, control and notification of outbreaks and diseases
- risk analysis, epidemio-surveillance and zoning
- inspection skills and sampling techniques
- diagnostic tests for animal diseases
- preparation, production, recording and control of the biological products intended for the diagnosis and prevention of animal diseases.
- border control and import regulations
- disinfection and desinfestation
- destruction of pathogenic agents and animal products.

The second part of the presentation deals with the fundamental texts which define the statutory aspects of the operation of the OIE and its World Assembly (vote: one member = one vote) as well immunity privileges with respect to the Republic of France, hosting country of the OIE head office.

To end with, the obligations related to the position of Delegate were developed as regards:

- Reporting on the animal health situation and disease prevention measures applied
- Notification to OIE of animal diseases present
- Conformity of animal health legislation with OIE standards and/or risk analyses, conducted according to OIE methods and standards.
- SPS Agreement of the WTO for the countries having ratified these agreements.

The presentation is concluded by recalling the role of the various focal points in support of their Delegates, who nevertheless remains the only official contact point with the OIE for the Member State. The presented also points out the available tools and best the ways and means to consult them or obtain them.

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## MY LIFE AS AN OIE DELEGATE

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*Mokhtar Fall*

OIE Delegate  
Vice-President  
Regional Commission for Africa  
OIE  
Noukachott, Mauritania

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At the end of the 1990's I was a young official who was promoted and ranked second in seniority responsible for carrying out the development policy of agro-pastoral resources (entity grouping agriculture and livestock farming). From the beginning, I was very enthusiastic about the idea of restoring the image of the livestock farming sub-sector which had been lost in my country, following the example of so many other African countries after the famous restructuring of departments of agriculture.

I felt, and quite correctly I believe, that this sub-sector had been relegated to second place for the benefit of agriculture in a country like mine which was suited to pastoral activities. This became understood in time and was confirmed by the fact that in spite of efforts made, the State showed less and less political will to support the development of livestock farming. This resulted in a progressive year by year regression of investments allocated to the sector, the deterioration of services (human and material resources, skills, etc....), the absence of a strategy and planned initiatives in many areas, particularly in animal health, etc....

For myself, I definitely held my country responsible for this situation, but particularly international authorities and co-operation partners in the framework of guidelines imposed in order to benefit from their finance. This idea had become an obsession for me and was exacerbated when I was appointed as a delegate at the OIE. I thought that my presence in international forums such as the OIE, was an opportunity (often unfortunate, owing to youthful enthusiasm and inexperience) to express my indignation with the aim of bringing about change..

My 15 years as an OIE delegate has enabled me to draw the following conclusion. In the beginning I lacked experience and I was not properly equipped, but with the passage of time I am able to say that in all humility and gratefulness and without being the OIE's "sage", I learned a lot in method and organisation, conception, orientation and the implementation of policies and strategies in the field of animal health. However, perhaps more importantly, I saw the progressive expression of political will as well as recognition from Co-operation Partners in this sector. In addition, it must also be stated that the skills and representativeness of our continent have been improved.

I was saying above: inexperienced and ill-equipped. I was appointed as a delegate like many of my colleagues and today I can say without hesitation, although I did not have a good knowledge of the objectives, role and functioning of the organisation and, worse still, I did not even know my prerogatives as a delegate.

In the beginning, it was the pleasure I derived from the position and of discovering Paris... We used to come alone without experts (although other countries came with large delegations), sometimes having only partial knowledge of all the matters under discussion, which resulted in minimal participation as well as random and un-coordinated remarks. These remarks were often, as mine were in the beginning, even irrelevant and irritating.

On the subject of resolutions, Africa's impact was less because of our lack of cohesion in defending either national or continental interests.

Regarding the country and our authorities, we did not appreciate the importance of this organisation. We were often asked to answer the following question: what is the OIE and what does it bring to the country, making reference to the financing of certain other organisations like the WHO, UNICEF, etc.

Since little consideration was given to the delegate - the proof is his status at national level and the low level of participation of African delegates because of the lack of funding for travel (costs often borne by projects and programmes) or arrears in subscriptions - you can imagine the damage which occurred when voting for resolutions and the participation of African experts in the main authorities and commissions of the organisation...

Matters of normalisation, health security, health code etc sometimes involved a number of ministerial departments and we were confronted with problems of co-ordination, the collection of health information, even general information of application and follow up of resolutions.

Regionally and sub-regionally the impact to the organisation was not felt either and very few structures continuing the work were present on the continent. Resolutions were simply shelved once they had left Paris. We were especially good at carrying out large projects of combating diseases (rinderpest). These efforts were often badly co-ordinated and this even occurred within our only organisation worthy of the name, which at that time was OAU-IBAR. Often all there was at a regional level was the organisation of seminars and meetings which did not result in anything owing to the lack of monitoring and evaluation.

Problems revolving around normalisation were not of great concern to us, the reason being that we did not have the skills and particularly the fact that Africa did not participate with authorities in the drawing up of standards. We only really benefited from the training and information sessions in respect of decisions taken. These sessions were financed by scraping money together. Here too, one can imagine the damage to Africa in the field of commercial exchanges and access to markets.

The prevention and fight against transferable diseases between animals and people, was in particular within the jurisdiction of our human health services through the WHO and there were few joint co-ordination initiatives with veterinary services. I would even say that we were often marginalised or at worst, accused.

Were they right, as it must be recognised that our warning and quick reaction systems were inefficient and virtually non-existent.

Finally (and this is not our final conclusion) our training and research institutions were ill-equipped and reduced to fundamentals: Training programmes which were not adapted properly or did not correspond with the realities and the context of the continent, very little importance given to development research, absence of reference institutions...

I learned a lot. The skills and representativeness of member countries and Africa in particular, have been improved. Regarding this and to be brief (because I have often been criticised for that, but rest assured I have improved) I will content myself with quoting major advances amongst others and in particular regarding the continent with the help of the OIE in collaboration with a revitalised OAU-IBAR and the RECs as well as other regional and sub-regional organisations.

Allow me to express thanks, on behalf of us all, for the wonderful work done by the Director General not only for the influence of our organisation, but in particular for what he has done for Africa. Our thanks, of course, must also go to the leaders of our regional and sub-regional organisations who contributed to that. In my humble opinion, these advances are:

- the establishment of regional representation and of sub-regional representations and contribution to the activities of the CRSA;
- pleas and lobbying carried out in states and regional and sub-regional organisations to raise the status of the delegate;
- financing of the training of delegates and meetings of the Africa Commission;
- The appointment of focal points who support the delegate in the implementation of his task;
- Organisation of training seminars and discussions for cadres on strategies and policies at a regional and sub-regional level;
- work done in the field of normalisation which has resulted, amongst others, in the idea of zoning and compartmentalisation and the recognition of the status of disease-free countries (the advent of the status of a country free of rinderpest in Africa);
- Agreements concluded with the other world organisations (WHO, FAO, AIEA, WTO, etc) and the implementation of the strategic plan which have contributed to recognition of the predominant role of the OIE in public health, trade exchanges, animal welfare, food security and the alleviation of poverty;
- The establishment of excellent and revolutionary tools following the example of the PVS and its implementation in member countries, has contributed to the mobilisation of States, donors and co-operation partners in respect of veterinary services;
- Establishment of a database of health information;
- Inauguration of reference laboratories and collaborating centres;
- Thoughts on training in institutions concerned, for better adaptation to needs;
- Reinforcement of the health governance of national systems and veterinary services (the following conference on veterinary legislation is an example of that);

- Since the advent of avian influenza, the role played by our organisation for the recognition of veterinary services like International Public Welfare and the need to reinforce these services;
- The importance given to developing countries in all the strategies and policies of the organisation and the increase in their level of participation within international decision-making institutions and also in international conferences;
- Revitalisation seen in regional representation and CBRs by means of the holding of training and discussion sessions on policies and strategies which are specific to our countries and regions;
- Lastly, under the auspices of the OAU-IBAR and with the help of the OIE, the holding of co-ordination meetings for our participation in international authorities, the taking up and defence of the common African position.

These are all matters which have contributed to facilitating the delegate's task.

I may have forgotten certain points which my colleagues will be kind enough to fill in, but in summary here are the main stages in my life as a delegate to give you an idea of the importance of training for delegates to enable them to play their part fully. Some of those from my generation did not benefit from this training or rather benefited in a different way through errors made over time and the help and advice from the previous generations, to whom I would like to pay tribute. This training will result in the following:

- improved knowledge of your prerogatives and claiming your national status,
- a clearer understanding of the problems at national level while co-ordinating with the relevant structures and departments through your focal points,
- better expressing and defending your needs in terms of strategies and policies at national, regional and sub-regional level,
- finally, to reinforce the common position on questions relevant to the continent within international authorities. It will also contribute (I sincerely hope it does) to encourage our governments to create more stability for our posts.

I would not like to conclude without adding that this training will also help you to know your organisation better and to give it greater support, as well as to those who lead the organisation for us and who are responsible for its international influence.

I would like to thank the organisers for having allowed me to speak in this training session as well as for the excellent organisation and importance of matters discussed.

My thanks go to the Director General for his efforts and for my part, from this time I would like to confirm the support of Mauritania for his future re-election.

Dear colleagues, without attempting to influence you, I would still like to ask you to join me in supporting the candidature of Dr Bernard VALLAT if only as a motion of thanks for his consideration and his work towards fairness in developing countries and African countries in particular.

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## NOTIFICATION OF ANIMAL DISEASES (GENERAL PRINCIPLES)

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*Francesco Berlingieri*

Deputy-Head  
Information Department  
OIE  
Paris, France

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One of the OIE's main missions is to ensure the transparency of the world animal health situation. In this respect the OIE setup the *World Animal Health Information System* (WAHIS) based on the commitment of OIE Member Countries and Territories to notify cases of the main animal diseases detected in their territories, including zoonoses.

WAHIS is an internet-based computer system that processes data on animal diseases and then informs the international community, by means of "alert messages", of relevant epidemiological events in OIE Members. Access to this secure site is only available to authorised users, namely the OIE Delegates and their authorised representatives, who use WAHIS to notify the OIE on any relevant animal disease information. Whenever an important epidemiological event occurs (related to both terrestrial and aquatic animals), the Member must inform the OIE by sending an Immediate Notification which includes the reason for the notification, the name of the disease, the affected species, the geographical area affected, the control measures applied and any laboratory tests carried out or in progress. Once they have been received, verified and validated by the OIE, the immediate notifications are published in the OIE's three official working languages (English, French and Spanish) and electronically distributed through an open distribution list. After having informed the OIE of a significant epidemiological event by means of an immediate notification report, the Member must send weekly Follow-up Reports so that the event can be monitored as it evolves. In all cases, the country must submit a final report to notify either that the event has been resolved or that the disease has become endemic. In the latter case, the country will continue to submit information in its six-monthly reports if the disease is an OIE listed disease.

Six-monthly reports provide information on the presence or absence of OIE listed diseases and the prevention and control measures applied. For diseases reported as being present in a country during a given six-month period, the country in question must provide quantitative data on the number of outbreaks, susceptible animals, cases, deaths, animals destroyed and animals vaccinated. For diseases that are present and are notifiable, the OIE recommends that Members provide quantitative data by month and by first administrative division.

As a complement to WAHIS, the data and information provided by Members are accessible via the Web interface WAHID (World Animal Health Information Database) and can be accessed by the public through the OIE Web site ( [www.oie.int/wahid](http://www.oie.int/wahid) ). This unique application improves the transparency, efficacy and rapidity of the dissemination of animal health information throughout the world, by giving everyone access to all the available information on animal diseases, including zoonoses, presented by country/territory, by region, by month, by six-month period or by year. This interface gives access to a range of other information, including data on animal populations at a national or regional level, epidemiological maps of significant events, world distribution maps of animal diseases and control methods applied by disease.

A new version of the system (WAHIS-2) will be launched in 2010 bringing along significant improvements in the field of notification of diseases in wildlife and integrating the national wildlife focal points.

The screenshot shows the OIE website homepage with the following sections:

- Header:** OIE logo and name in three languages: Organisation Mondiale de la Santé Animale, World Organisation for Animal Health, and Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal.
- Language:** [Español] [Français]
- Left Navigation Menu:**
  - Site map
  - Search
  - The OIE
  - The Veterinary Services
  - Press releases/Editorials
  - International meetings
  - World animal health situation
  - Official country disease status
  - Animal diseases data
  - OIE Expertise
  - Certification of diagnostic assays
  - Health standards
  - Publications and Documentation
  - Jobs/Internships/Services
  - Links
- Alerts - Disease Information:**
  - Pandemic Influenza A H1N1 (2009) in Serbia - Highly pathogenic
  - Latest news on animal diseases
  - Update on avian influenza in animals
  - WAHID World Animal Health Information Database** (highlighted with a black arrow)
- Highlights:**
  - 12/01/10 World Veterinary Day Award - 3rd edition
  - 04/12/09 OIE Commission on Veterinary Medicinal Products in the Middle East Putting a halt to the misuse of veterinary medicinal products
  - 23/11/09 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific OIE will support Members establish free zones for certain equine diseases
  - previous press releases...
- OIE Conferences:**
  - Second Global Conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres Paris (France), 21-23 June 2010
- Editorial from the Director General:**
  - Veterinary medicinal products and vaccines: indispensable tools for any effective animal health and welfare policy**
  - Appropriate prevention and control of animal diseases depends first of all upon policies of good veterinary governance.
  - These policies must be underpinned by legislation inspired by OIE standards but they must also be backed up the necessary resources for its enforcement, in particular by the Veterinary Services supported by their public and private sector components working together in a clearly defined partnership.
- OIE Publications:**
  - Scientific and Technical Review
  - Most recent issues:
    - \* Veterinary education for global animal and public health, 28 (2), August 2009
    - \* Avian influenza, 28 (1), April 2009
  - \* Access to other issues
- Footer:**
  - http://www.oie.int/
  - Copyright (C) OIE 2010
  - World organisation for animal health
  - Editorial Director: Dr Vallat

The WAHID application is accessible from the main homepage on the OIE website : [www.oie.int](http://www.oie.int).

# Session 5

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## The quality of veterinary services



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**PROVISIONS OF THE OIE TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH CODE :  
THE BSE CHAPTER AS APPLIED IN BOTSWANA**

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*Alex Thiermann*

President  
Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission  
OIE  
Paris, France

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In order to understand Botswana's approach to the export of beef and the processes involved at the slaughterhouse, as observed at the export abattoir of the *Botswana Meat Commission* (BMC) in Lobatse, one needs to understand the provisions of the Terrestrial Code with regard to *Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy* (BSE) or "*mad cow disease*" as it is popularly known. Botswana, being categorized as a country of undetermined BSE risk, in order to meet the requirements identified in Article 11.6.14 of the BSE Chapter of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, Botswana authorities must certify the removal of commodities that should not be traded. Thereafter all commodities listed in Article 11.6.1 should be considered safe:

Article 11.6.1. defines the **General provisions and safe commodities** as follows : (1).When authorising import or transit of the following commodities and any products made from these commodities and containing no other tissues from cattle, Veterinary Authorities should not require any BSE related conditions, regardless of the BSE risk status of the cattle population of the exporting country, zone or compartment:

- milk and milk products;
- semen and in vivo derived cattle embryos collected and handled in accordance with the recommendations of the International Embryo Transfer Society;
- hides and skins;
- gelatine and collagen prepared exclusively from hides and skins;
- tallow with maximum level of insoluble impurities of 0.15% in weight and derivatives made from this tallow;
- dicalcium phosphate (with no trace of protein or fat);
- deboned skeletal muscle meat (excluding mechanically separated meat) from cattle which were not subjected to a stunning process prior to slaughter, with a device injecting compressed air or gas into the cranial cavity or to a pithing process, and which passed ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections and which has been prepared in a manner to avoid contamination with tissues listed in Article 11.6.14.;
- blood and blood by-products, from cattle which were not subjected to a stunning process, prior to slaughter, with a device injecting compressed air or gas into the cranial cavity, or to a pithing process.

(2). When authorising import or transit of other commodities listed in this chapter, Veterinary Authorities should require the conditions prescribed in this chapter relevant to the BSE risk status of the cattle population of the exporting country, zone or compartment:

Article 11.6.2. (and following) will then define the **various BSE risk statuses of the cattle population of a country, zone or compartment**

The BSE risk status of the cattle population of a country, zone or compartment should be determined on the basis of the following criteria:

(a) the outcome of a risk assessment, based on the provisions of the Terrestrial Code, identifying all potential factors for BSE occurrence and their historic perspective. Members should review the risk assessment annually to determine whether the situation has changed.

(b) on-going awareness programme for veterinarians, farmers, and workers involved in transportation, marketing and slaughter of cattle to encourage reporting of all cases showing clinical signs consistent with BSE in target sub-populations as defined in Articles 11.6.20. to 11.6.22.;

(c) the compulsory notification and investigation of all cattle showing clinical signs consistent with BSE;

(d) the examination carried out in accordance with the Terrestrial Manual in a laboratory of brain or other tissues collected within the framework of the aforementioned surveillance and monitoring system.

When the risk assessment demonstrates negligible risk, the Member should conduct Type B surveillance in accordance with Articles 11.6.20. to 11.6.22. When the risk assessment fails to demonstrate negligible risk, the Member should conduct Type A surveillance in accordance with Articles 11.6.20. to 11.6.22.

Article 11.6.3. deals with the **negligible** BSE risk

Commodities from the cattle population of a country, zone or compartment pose a negligible risk of transmitting the BSE agent if the following conditions are met:

1. a risk assessment, as described in point 1 of Article 11.6.2., has been conducted in order to identify the historical and existing risk factors, and the Member has demonstrated that appropriate specific measures have been taken for the relevant period of time defined below to manage each identified risk;
2. the Member has demonstrated that Type B surveillance in accordance with Articles 11.6.20. to 11.6.22. is in place and the relevant points target, in accordance with Table 1, has been met;
3. EITHER:
  - (a) there has been no case of BSE or, if there has been a case, every case of BSE has been demonstrated to have been imported and has been completely destroyed, and
    - the criteria in points 2 to 4 of Article 11.6.2. have been complied with for at least 7 years; and
    - it has been demonstrated through an appropriate level of control and audit that for at least 8 years neither meat-and-bone meal nor greaves derived from ruminants has been fed to ruminants;

OR

(b) if there has been an indigenous case, every indigenous case was born more than 11 years ago; and

- the criteria in points 2 to 4 of Article 11.6.2. have been complied with for at least 7 years; and
- it has been demonstrated through an appropriate level of control and audit that for at least 8 years neither meat-and-bone meal nor greaves derived from ruminants has been fed to ruminants; and
- all BSE cases, as well as:
  - all cattle which, during their first year of life, were reared with the BSE cases during their first year of life, and which investigation showed consumed the same potentially contaminated feed during that period, or
  - if the results of the investigation are inconclusive, all cattle born in the same herd as, and within 12 months of the birth of, the BSE cases, if alive in the country, zone or compartment, are permanently identified, and their movements controlled, and, when slaughtered or at death, are completely destroyed.

Article 11.6.4. deals with the **controlled** BSE risk

Commodities from the cattle population of a country, zone or compartment pose a controlled risk of transmitting the BSE agent if the following conditions are met:

1. a risk assessment, as described in point 1 of Article 11.6.2., has been conducted in order to identify the historical and existing risk factors, and the Member has demonstrated that appropriate measures are being taken to manage all identified risks, but these measures have not been taken for the relevant period of time;
2. the Member has demonstrated that Type A surveillance in accordance with Articles 11.6.20. to 11.6.22. has been carried out and the relevant points target, in accordance with Table 1, has been met; Type B surveillance may replace Type A surveillance once the relevant points target is met;
3. EITHER:
  - (a) there has been no case of BSE or, if there has been a case, every case of BSE has been demonstrated to have been imported and has been completely destroyed, the criteria in points 2 to 4 of Article 11.6.2. are complied with, and it can be demonstrated through an appropriate level of control and audit that neither meat-and-bone meal nor greaves derived from ruminants has been fed to ruminants, but at least one of the following two conditions applies:
    - the criteria in points 2 to 4 of Article 11.6.2. have not been complied with for 7 years;
    - it cannot be demonstrated that controls over the feeding of meat-and-bone meal or greaves derived from ruminants to ruminants have been in place for 8 years;

OR

(b) there has been an indigenous case of BSE, the criteria in points 2 to 4 of Article 11.6.2. are complied with, and it can be demonstrated through an appropriate level of control and audit that neither meat-and-bone meal nor greaves derived from ruminants has been fed to ruminants;

and all BSE cases, as well as:

- all cattle which, during their first year of life, were reared with the BSE cases during their first year of life, and which investigation showed consumed the same potentially contaminated feed during that period, or

- if the results of the investigation are inconclusive, all cattle born in the same herd as, and within 12 months of the birth of, the BSE cases,

if alive in the country, zone or compartment, are permanently identified, and their movements controlled, and, when slaughtered or at death, are completely destroyed.

Article 11.6.5. applies to the third and last category : **undetermined** BSE risk. This corresponds to the situation in Botswana and most other African countries. It states that : *“the cattle population of a country, zone or compartment poses an undetermined BSE risk if it cannot be demonstrated that it meets the requirements of another category.”*

**In order to export beef, Botswana has therefore to comply with Article 11.6.12.** on recommendations for the importation of meat and meat products from a country, zone or compartment posing an undetermined BSE risk for fresh meat and meat products from cattle (other than those listed in point 1 of Article 11.6.1.) :

Veterinary Authorities should require the presentation of an international veterinary certificate attesting that:

(a) the cattle from which the fresh meat and meat products originate:

- have not been fed meat-and-bone meal or greaves derived from ruminants;
- passed ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections;
- were not subjected to a stunning process, prior to slaughter, with a device injecting compressed air or gas into the cranial cavity, or to a pithing process;

(b) the fresh meat and meat products were produced and handled in a manner which ensures that such products do not contain and are not contaminated with:

- the tissues listed in points 1 and 3 of Article 11.6.14.,
- nervous and lymphatic tissues exposed during the deboning process,
- mechanically separated meat from the skull and vertebral column from cattle over 12 months of age.

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**PROVISIONS OF THE OIE TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH CODE :  
THE QUALITY OF VETERINARY SERVICES, PVS AND PVS-BASED GAP ANALYSES**

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*Daniel Bourzat*

Advisor  
Regional Representation for Africa  
OIE  
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During this presentation, the participants are reminded of the OIE mandates, as well as the functions inherited from the initial mandate and the new mandates specified in the strategic plans 4 and 5. The normative role of OIE with respect to the WTO and the implications as regards the quality of the veterinary services are largely developed, discussed and commented on.

Given this need for improvement of the veterinary services, OIE was led to develop new tools which enable simultaneously :

- To assess the initial situation of the national veterinary services (concept which includes the public services but also the private veterinary sector and civil society). This is the PVS tool, which was presented in its broad principles.
- To assess this situation in terms of gaps, when compared to the international standards of the OIE. It is the gap-analysis phase which will facilitate the definition of the broad strategic development axes for the services and the sector in general. This strategic plan is used as a negotiation document with the ministries of finances and the donors. The implementation of these strategic plans is consolidated by general or specific support missions. E.g. there appears to be a lot of demand for the analysis and consecutive upgrading of national veterinary legislation.

A quick overview of the BTSF programme was presented, in order to point out the interest of the European Union in having quality products enter its territory, in particular livestock and fisheries products. The speaker concludes his presentation with the state of play as regards evaluation of veterinary services, gap-analysis missions and legislative support. The African continent has been able to seize this opportunity as it took massively part in this OIE process.



*Participants at the regional OIE seminar on communication for English-speaking African countries. September 2009, Gaborone, Botswana*

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COMMUNICATION WITH THE MEDIA: GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND OUTCOMES OF THE OIE  
SEMINAR ON COMMUNICATION HELD IN GABORONE IN SEPTEMBER 2009

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*Patrick Bastiaensen*

Programme Officer  
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Gaborone, Botswana

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*'Communication'*, as a discipline and not to be confused with *'extension'* was introduced in OIE jargon in 2001, following approval by its International Committee of Resolution XXI. Thereafter, *'communication'* was inserted in the OIE 4th Strategic Plan (2006-2010). Hence, communication became, in a very short time, an integral part of the OIE strategy aimed at the improvement of animal health in the world and a prominent cross-cutting approach in any control of animal diseases, control of public health, promotion of trade and fight against poverty. In order for this *'international'* approach to take roots at the national level it is paramount that the profession displays what it does and what it represents : get the work done and let them know ! Policy makers and civil society must be convinced of the economic and social worth of the missions veterinary services perform every day. These values reside in our opinion under 4 important sets of themes: public health, food security, food safety, biodiversity and animal welfare. Several of these themes are covered by the concept of *'one world, one health'*, which draws the attention to the inter-linkages between animal health, human health and environmental health. Once the communication was recognised, it was necessary to define the extent of its ramifications, to prepare terms of reference and - OIE obliges - to develop standards. An ad hoc group exists within the OIE and the first comments of the Member States on the first texts were discussed in September 2009. In the med term, a chapter on the communication will be introduced into the Terrestrial Code and communication will be part of the revisions to be undertaken with regard to the PVS tool.

In order to translate the international vision of OIE at the regional level and later national level, the Organisation initiated a series of regional seminars on this topic. The first seminar of the kind in Africa took place here, in Gaborone, in September 2009 for the English-speaking countries of Africa. 21 countries were present and 23 countries had contributed to a questionnaire on the subject (out of the 25 invited countries). The participants represented one of these four categories: representatives of the veterinary services (chief veterinary officer and communication officer), representatives of the media or communication specialists (AFP, BTV, The East-African), representatives of the consumers and the producers (Consumers International, SAPA), and finally: representatives of regional (AU-IBAR, SADC) or international (OIE, FAO) organisations. Case studies were presented on food safety (South Africa), rabies (Angola), foot-and-mouth disease (Botswana), Rift Valley fever (Kenya), African swine fever (Namibia), bird flu (Nigeria), as well as the perspectives of the various stakeholders (press, consumers, producers, veterinary services) and the best (and worst) experiences as regards institutional communication towards the political leaders and decision makers. The recommendations of this seminar highlight the role of OIE, the need to develop a regional strategy, to strengthen the capacities of the veterinary services with respect to communication, the need to have more and better relations with the press, in times of war, as well as in peace time, training needs, and the relationship to public health services, in regard of zoonoses and food toxins.

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## VETERINARY EDUCATION

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*Aaron Mweene*

Dean  
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Veterinary training in Africa for many years has focussed on producing veterinarians to address the needs of the livestock sector, and most veterinarians have been absorbed into the public sector. The delivery of veterinary services is increasingly being accepted as a global public good mainly because of the initiatives of the *World Organisation for Animal Health* (OIE). The international community expects the profession to assume different approaches when dealing with the disease environment such as predicting disease outbreaks and spread by focussing on prevailing climatic conditions, appreciating the impact of disease due to observed events, and to consider potential epidemiological causal links. There is an expectation that all health export declarations for live animals and animal products should be scientifically founded. Veterinary education in Africa cannot ignore these global animal health and public health issues. It is assumed that a similar (as in most parts of the world) standardized, but locally adapted and relevant core programme should in future form the basis of training of all veterinarians throughout sub-Saharan Africa. This programme should provide each veterinarian with general professional skills and attributes, underpinning veterinary scientific knowledge and understanding, and prerequisite clinical competencies and skills. A meeting organised by the *World Organisation for Animal Health* (OIE) for Deans of Veterinary Faculties and Registrars of *Veterinary Statutory Bodies* (VSBs) in Southern Africa on “Veterinary Education in Southern Africa: matching demand and supply”, was held in September, 2009, in Arusha, Tanzania. The meeting observed that Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSBs) are an autonomous authority regulating Veterinarians and Veterinary para-professionals. It was also observed that Veterinary Statutory bodies as well as Veterinary Schools in Southern Africa must work together to address the dynamic needs and demands of the veterinary profession. The recommendations that the meeting came up with to improve the quality and governance of veterinary services and to improve and facilitate regulation and harmonization of the veterinary curriculum in the OIE member countries of Southern Africa were presented at the conference on “*Evolving veterinary education for a safer world*” in Paris, France, 12-14 October, 2009 at which they were to a large extent adopted and incorporated into the final resolutions.

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## VETERINARY STATUTORY BODIES

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*Hanri Kruger*

Registrar  
South African Veterinary Council (SAVC)  
Pretoria, South Africa

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A *veterinary statutory body* (VSB) is an essential part in ensuring good veterinary governance and in meeting the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (TAHC) standards on quality and performance for Veterinary Services. The main task of a VSB is to exercise control over veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals and provision should be made for compulsory licensing, the setting of minimum standards for education, professional conduct and having mechanisms in place to deal with failures when the required minimum standards are not met.

Definitions: Reference will be made to the following definitions contained in the TAHC:

- *Veterinary Statutory Body* (VSB)
- *Veterinarian* and
- *Veterinary para-professional* (VPP).



*The board of the South African Vet. Council @ SAVC*

Evaluation of veterinary services: As the organisational structure and functioning of a VSB plays a role in the evaluation of veterinary services the scope of the evaluation of a VSB (contained in article 3.12.3 of the TAHC) is considered with specific reference to the VSB's:

- Objectives and functions
- Legislative basis, autonomy and functional capacity
- Membership composition and representation
- Accountability and transparency of decision-making
- Sources and management of funding
- Administration of training programmes and programmes for continuing professional development.

Reference is furthermore made to the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) and its various committees in explaining the role and function of a VSB in ensuring the quality of veterinary services. Specific questions are answered such as

- Why persons register ?
- What are the minimum requirements for registration?
- How is quality assured?
- What process is followed to investigate allegations of unprofessional conduct?

In conclusion : a VSB plays a pivotal role in quality assurance of veterinary services

# Session 6

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## Strategy



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**EXTERNAL RELATIONS: RELATIONS BETWEEN THE OIE AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS  
(REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES, WTO, FAO, WHO, EUROPEAN COMMISSION,  
USDA, AU-IBAR, GF-TADS, GLEWS, WORLD BANK)**

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*Mara Elma Gonzalez-Ortiz, Daniel Bourzat<sup>(1)</sup> & Francesco Berlingieri<sup>(2)</sup>*

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<sup>(2)</sup> Deputy-Head  
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Paris, France

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The OIE was created in 1924, however when the United Nations established two specialist agencies: the *Food and Agriculture Organization* of the United Nations (FAO) in 1946 and the *World Health Organization* (WHO) in 1948, whose aims partially covered those of the Office, the existence of the OIE was questioned and the possibility of simply dissolving the organisation was envisaged in 1946 and again in 1951. Thanks to the opposition of numerous OIE Member Countries and Delegates, the functions of the Office were kept alive and in 1952 and 1960 Official agreements between the OIE and the FAO and WHO respectively were signed.

Three other cooperative agreements were signed by the OIE before the implementation and execution of the 3rd OIE Strategic Plan, including the official agreement with the *World Trade Organisation* (WTO) in 1998.

Between 2000 and 2005, during the execution of its 3rd Strategic Plan, the OIE concluded or expanded 22 cooperative agreements. Agreements with FAO, WHO, WTO and CEC resulted in strengthening even more the OIE's ability to respond regarding new animal health, zoonotic, animal welfare and animal production food safety issues.

Throughout 2006 and 2010 and within the scope of the 4th Strategic Plan, the OIE reached 18 cooperative agreements, facilitating additional inter-agency cooperation in cross-linked areas of animal health and food safety at regional and sub-regional levels and establishing more ambitious and selective cooperation with worldwide bodies representing private sectors.

OIE cooperation agreements respect the principles of consistency and mutual respect of mandates of concerned organizations; while at the same time ensure accomplishment of OIE objectives through effective communication.

OIE cooperation agreements comprise global and regional intergovernmental organisations, global private sector organisations including professions and animal products dedicated bodies and scientific research institutions.

OIE / FAO - COMPLEMENTARITIES and SYNERGIES

Final version signed on 9th October 2006



Animal Health Standards and Guidelines setting and Adoption	Standards and Guidelines Setting
Good Farming Practices Guidelines and Strategies	Good Farming Practices & Strategies
Animal Disease Information and Intelligence	Official Disease Information
	Disease Tracking
	Disease Intelligence
Expertise on Animal Health worldwide	Expertise
Expertise for Development Programs on Animal Health	Expertise for Development Programs on Animal Health
Animal Health Publications	Technical and Scientific Publications
Capacity Building Programs on Animal Health on standards and guidelines implementation	Global
	Regional
	National
Development programs on Animal Health	Global
	Regional
	National

Graphic presentation of OIE and FAO complementarities and synergies.

Some of the global intergovernmental organisations with which OIE has signed agreements are:

- FAO under the framework of the GF-TADs Agreement at global and regional levels, to safeguard livestock and developing countries from epidemic of infectious diseases; improve food security and economic growth of developing countries through reduction of damage of epidemic animal diseases; promote safe trade in livestock and animal products; with the support of regional and national networks : Regional Animal Health Centres and Regional Specialized Organisations.
- WHO for addressing zoonoses through OIE international standards, WHO *International Health Regulations* (IHR-2005) and GLEWS (*Global Early Warning and Response System for Major Animal Diseases, including zoonoses*) under the mutual approach “One World, One Health”.
- WTO for providing countries with necessary capacities through the Global programme for capacity building and technical cooperation, to enable them to benefit more fully from the WTO *Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement* (SPS Agreement) while at the same time providing greater protection for animal health and public health.
- World Bank for providing countries with OIE-PVS evaluations, gap analysis and legislation missions, laboratory twinning projects and other capacity building activities; recognizing the Veterinary Services as a “Global Public Good” whose benefits extend to all countries, people and generations.

Regional intergovernmental organisations with which OIE has signed agreements for technical cooperation in the field of animal health, exchange of scientific information and working programs, strengthening of Veterinary Services, dissemination of information on the occurrence of animal diseases, design and setting up of animal health information and epidemiological surveillance systems, organisation of workshops, meetings and seminars on epidemiology, risk analysis and harmonisation of animal health legislation, promotion of the use of the OIE international animal health Codes, OIE-PVS evaluations (*Performance of Veterinary Services*) and twinning projects, are:

- AU-IBAR (*African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources*)
- SADC (*Southern African Development Community*)
- CEBEVIRHA (*Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish Resources of CEMAC*)
- ECOWAS (*Economic Community of West African States*)
- UEMOA (*West African Economic and Monetary Union*)

Another relevant intergovernmental organization contributing to activities in Africa is the European Union/*European Commission* for providing mechanisms of collaboration for surveillance and control of epizootic diseases, and for national, global and regional seminars and conferences. Under this framework EU/BTSF project in Africa is ongoing.

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## REGIONAL ACTIVITIES AND STRATEGIES OF THE OIE SRR FOR NORTH AFRICA

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*Faouzi Kechrid*

Representative  
Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa  
OIE  
Tunis, Tunisia

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The *Sub-Regional Representation of the OIE for North Africa* (SRR-NA) was established in May 2009 in Tunis (Tunisia) in order to cover the five OIE members in the sub-region (Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Tunisia) in collaboration with the OIE Regional Representation for Africa based in Bamako (Mali) and the *Arab Maghreb Union* (AMU) with headquarters at Rabat in Morocco. For certain co-ordinated activities within the GF-TADs and the RAHC, Egypt is also associated.



*Official opening of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa by the OIE Director General (left) and the Tunisian Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources (middle).  
Picture © OIE SRR NA (2010).*

The specific aim of the Tunis OIE SRR is to provide services which are associated and adapted to members of the sub-region. This will enable surveillance and control of animal diseases to be strengthened. The Tunis OIE SRR also intends to contribute to the improvement of information on animal diseases and to work towards the harmonisation of methods of combating these diseases in close collaboration with international and national animal health Services established in the region.

The work programme defined under the authority of the OIE's Director General will enable the sub-regional Representation of the OIE for North Africa to progressively confirm its role as leader in animal health in the sub-region according to the OIE's mandate which was voted by its 175 Members.

The OIE's Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa will be at the heart of all OIE projects in respect of capacity building of the Veterinary Services in the region. In particular, it will be a question of continuing the support for implementation of the entire PVS process (Performance of Veterinary Services Performance), of developing twinning projects of collaborating centres and OIE reference laboratories co-existing with institutions in the region, formalising health legislation reinforcement projects and organising training for OIE delegates and their focal points. The twinning projects will contribute to consolidating the veterinary science community in the region in order to participate in international arbitration regarding the preparation and adoption of global health standards published by the OIE or the Codex Alimentarius.

From an operational point of view, the work programme will consequently revolve around the following four OIE priorities:

- monitoring and implementation of the entire PVS process (*Performance of Veterinary Services*),
- training of OIE delegates and OIE focal points,
- development of OIE twinning projects with institutions in the region,
- support for obtaining official OIE health status (in particular FMD).

The Tunis SRR would also guarantee liaison with headquarters in Paris for the OIE programmes carried out in the sub-region in partnership with other organisations like the FAO (GF-TADs), AU-IBAR, AMU, WTO, WHO or the *World Bank*.

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## REGIONAL ACTIVITIES AND STRATEGIES OF THE OIE SRR FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

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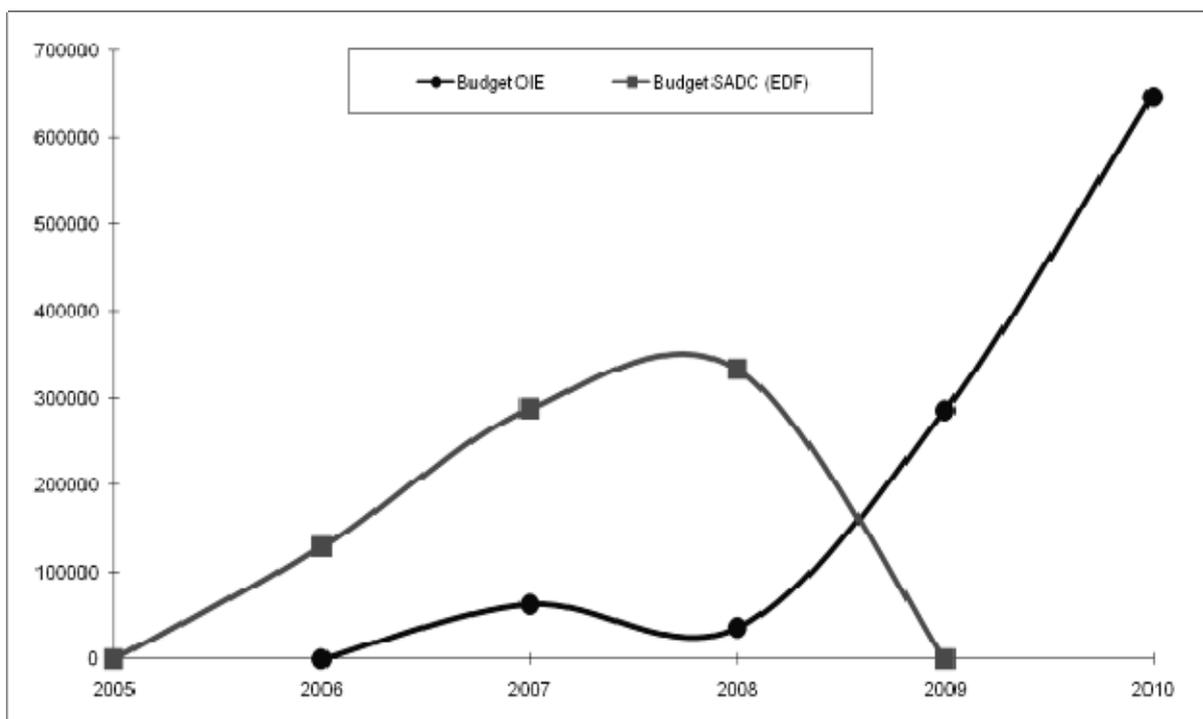
*Bonaventure J. Mtei*

Representative  
Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa  
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There have been major organizational and administrative reforms under the OIE 4th Strategic Plan (2006 – 2010) especially with regards to strengthening OIE Regional Commissions and establishment of Sub Regional Representations. All SRRs in Africa have been established during this period starting with Gaborone (2005), followed by Tunis (2009) and now Nairobi (2010)

The objective of establishing OIE SRR for Southern Africa, and that is the same for the other SRRs for Magreb and IGAD, is to bring OIE interventions closer to the OIE member countries and to try and align OIE actions with those of sub-regional bodies in an effort to enhance compliance to international standards on animal health and welfare.



*Evolution of the European budget (SADC/EDF) against the OIE budget between 2005 and 2010.*

Specifically OIE SRR SA was established to achieve a set on results of an Action that was funded under a SADC - EU Contribution Agreement with OIE. This Action was concluded in December 2009 and an independent final evaluation shows that it was conducted in an effective and efficient manner. Both technical and financial indicators have been achieved at a rate of over 90 and 97% respectively with much wider effects and impact.

The establishment of the OIE SRR SA has had a positive effect on creating awareness of public national VSs personnel at medium and high levels with regards to knowledge on international standards with reference to issues related to trade and market access of animals (both terrestrial and aquatic) and their products.

On the political side the action may not have achieved much. OIE SRR SA must develop a more proactive mechanism for campaigning, advocating and lobbying for political willingness for OIE member countries to increase both public and private investments in animal health as identified in the OIE PVS evaluations and Gap analyses. For this purpose it is being proposed to make use of honorary “OIE Ambassadors” in member countries with proven and respected track record of competencies in animal health and rural development.

While regular exchange of information between OIE SRR SA and member countries is critically important, collaboration and partnership with SADC Secretariat as well as with FAO and AU-IBAR through the Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC SA) is equally important. This partnership is seen as a necessary and positive move to avoid duplication and better use of resources when addressing animal health concerns in Southern Africa.

Within the framework of the OIE 5th Strategic Plan (2011-2014) the OIE Council and the Regional Commission for Africa will continue to provide political leadership and strategic guidance in relation to OIE activities in Africa for implementation by both OIE Headquarters, the Regional Representation for Africa and its SRRs. Apart from normative activities of the OIE, SRR Gaborone is in the process of developing a five year programme with two projects: one on Trade to support implementation of the SPS Annex to the SADC Trade Protocol and another in support to TADs prevention and progressive control with focus on FMD, CBPP, PPR and RVF.

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## REGIONAL ACTIVITIES AND STRATEGIES OF THE OIE RR FOR AFRICA (BAMAKO)

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*Abdoulaye Bouna Niang*

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The global objectives of the OIE according to its mandate, can be summarised as follows:

- Ensure transparency in the global animal disease situation and take suitable precautionary measures.
- Collect, analyse and disseminate veterinary scientific information, working on the basis of a worldwide network.
- Encourage international solidarity in the control of animal diseases
- Safeguard world trade by publishing health standards for international trade in animals and animal products within the framework of the mandate entrusted to the OIE through the application of the sanitary and phytosanitary agreement (SPS) of the WTO.
- Promoting the legal framework and Veterinary Services' resources in the wider sense (veterinary surgeons, livestock farmers, other professionals involved).
- Provide a better guarantee of food of animal origin and to promote animal welfare through a science-based approach

The OIE *Regional Representation* strategies for Africa flow from these strategic objectives as well as from initiatives which support them. These are set out in the OIE's fourth strategic Plan (2006-2010). In addition, these strategies take into account the following trends:

- ALIVE platform, which is at present under the aegis of the African Union.
- GF-TAD Africa, which attempts to translate the African Union's common agriculture policy into the area of animal health. This policy is formulated in the CAADP (*Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme*).

Finally, these OIE regional representation strategies for Africa are in conformity with health policies of the *Regional Economic Communities* (REC), whether they are members or not of the ALive Executive Committee, such as the CEMAC (the CEBEVHIRA), the ECOWAS, UEMOA, IGAD and SADC with which the OIE is associated by means of a co-operation agreement.

Activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa: they flow from the strategic main lines and initiatives thus enumerated. These activities can be carried out in partnership with the different institutions, such as the FAO and the UA-BIRA, regarding the following fields in particular:

- technical co-operation in the field of animal health (CRSA);
- exchange of scientific information and publications (WAHIS, WADID);
- strengthening of Veterinary Services of countries and of epidemiological monitoring systems (PVS, GAP Analysis, RESEPI);
- distribution of information on the appearance or development of animal diseases and zoonoses and on health security of food and animal welfare (RAHC);
- Co-operation in the improvement of veterinary medication put into circulation (WAEMU);
- Promotion of the use of OIE Codes and diagnostic test manuals (member Countries; WTO, CODEX);
- Promotion of the twinning of diagnostic laboratories within the framework of programmes established in West and Central Africa within the RESOLAB (Laboratory network) established in partnership with the FAO at the Bamako RAHC;
- Organisation of specific tasks in the event of a major health event;

These priorities can be adjusted according to the socio-economic and institutional context in order to satisfy the aims of the CAADP of the African Union or the health policies of the different *regional economic communities* (REC) in partnership.

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**SEMINAR PROGRAMME**

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**Tuesday 9 March**

Opening session & health standards

Time		Speaker
08:00	Pick-up at the hotel(s)	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration of participants	M. Mantsho
09:00 – 09:30	Inauguration and Opening	B. J. Mtei
09:30 – 10:00	Morning break – Coffee/Tea	

Time	Topic: The OIE: missions, organization and functioning	Speaker
10:00 – 10:20	Objectives and structure of the OIE and the 4th Strategic Plan	M. Gonzalez
10:20 – 10:40	The OIE's 5th strategic plan (2011-2015): major changes	V. Brioudes
10:40 – 11:00	OIE expertise, available to Member Countries	G. Brückner
11:00 – 11:20	OIE network of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres (twinning)	P. Bastiaensen
11:20 – 11:40	OIE twinning programme – a practical example from Botswana (BNVL)	K. Baipoledi
11:40 – 12:00	OIE Collaborating Centre for training in integrated livestock and wildlife health and management	J. Coetzer
12:00 – 12:20	Regional Animal Health Centres: the FAO's perspective	S. Münstermann
12:20 – 12:40	OIE Regional Commission for Africa	W. Olaho-Mukani
12:40 – 13:00	Discussion	
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch (on-site catering)	

## Tuesday 9 March (contd)

Time	Topic: The WTO and the SPS Agreement	Speaker
14:30 – 14:50	General principles	A. Thiermann
14:50 – 15:10	What about private standards?	H. Hays
15:30 – 15:50	What about animal welfare?	B. J. Mtei
15:50 – 16:10	Critical review, litigation, non-compliance	G. Brückner
16:10 – 16:40	Discussion	
16:40 – 17:00	Afternoon break – Coffee/Tea	
19:30 – 21:30	Welcome dinner reception	

## Wednesday 10 March

Health standards (continued) & rights and obligations of OIE Delegates

Time	Topic: The OIE <i>Codes</i> and <i>Manuals</i>	Speaker
08:00	Pick-up at the hotel(s)	
08:30 – 08:50	<i>Codes, Manuals</i> and associated standards	A. Thiermann
08:50 – 09:10	Aquatic animal diseases and biological standards	D. Huchzermeyer
09:10 – 09:30	Zoning, compartmentalization and containment zoning	S. Hargreaves
09:30 – 09:50	Identification, registration and traceability	K. Sehularo
09:50 – 10:10	Applying zoning – the example of Botswana for beef exports	L. Modisa
10:10 – 10:30	Discussion and closing remarks by the chair	F. Kechrid
10:30 – 11:00	Morning break – Coffee/Tea	

### Wednesday 10 March (contd)

Time	Topic: Rights & obligations of OIE Member Countries & OIE Delegates	Speaker
11:00 – 13:00	Perceptions of OIE Delegates, based on a standard PowerPoint presentation: <i>Botswana, Cameroon, Egypt, Gabon, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Namibia, Senegal, Somalia, Swaziland, Togo</i>	10 minutes per country
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch at the Caravela Restaurant	
14:30 – 14:50	General principles	A. Thiermann
14:50 – 15:10	Designation and responsibilities of OIE focal points	Daniel Bourzat
15:10 – 15:30	My life as an OIE Delegate	D. Bangoura
15:30 – 16:00	Discussion	
16:00 – 16:30	Notification of animal diseases (general principles)	F. Berlingieri
16:30 – 17:00	Afternoon break – Coffee/Tea	
17:00 – 17:30	Notification of animal diseases (case study)	F. Berlingieri
17:30 – 18:00	Demonstration of the WAHIS and WAHID on-line interfaces	F. Berlingieri

### Thursday 11 March

OIE standards put into practice (field visits)

Time	Topic: OIE standards put into practice	Location
07:00	Pick-up at the hotel(s)	Gaborone West
08:00 – 13:00	Visit of the Botswana Meat Commission (BMC), Meat Inspection Training Centre (MITC) and export abattoir.	Lobatse
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch at the Mokolodi Game Reserve	Mokolodi
14:00 – 16:30	Information about wildlife management and conservation and game drive in the Mokolodi Game Reserve	Mokolodi
16:30 – 18:00	Visit of the Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI): OIE Reference Laboratory for FMD and industrial vaccine production plant (Merial)	Broadhurst
19:00 – 21:00	A typical southern African “braai”	Yacht Club, Gaborone Dam

## Friday 12 March

### Rights and obligations of OIE Delegates & Strategy & Closing session

Time	Topic: The quality of veterinary services	Speaker
08:00	Pick-up at the hotel(s)	
08:30 – 09:30	Provisions of the OIE <i>Terrestrial Animal Health Code</i> : the BSE chapter as applied in Botswana (feed-back from participants after the visit to BMC – Lobatse)	A. Thiermann
09:30 – 10:00	Provisions of the OIE <i>Terrestrial Animal Health Code</i> : the quality of veterinary services, PVS and PVS-based gap analyses	D. Bourzat & P. Bastiaensen
10:00 – 10:30	Communication with the media: general principles and outcomes of the OIE Seminar on Communication held in Gaborone in September 2009	P. Bastiaensen
10:30 – 11:00	Morning break – Coffee/Tea	
11:00 – 11:30	Veterinary education	A. Mweene
11:30 – 12:00	Veterinary statutory bodies	H. Kruger
12:00 – 12:30	Discussion and closing remarks by the chair	A. B. Niang
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch (on-site catering)	
Time	Topic: Strategy	Speaker
14:00 – 14:20	External relations: relations between the OIE and other organisations (regional economic communities, WTO, FAO, WHO, European Commission, USDA, AU-IBAR, GF-TADs, GLEWS, World Bank)	M. Gonzalez D. Bourzat K. Ben Jebara
14:20 – 14:40	Demonstration of the OIE Africa website	P. Bastiaensen
14:40 – 15:00	Regional activities and strategies of the OIE SRR for North Africa	F. Kechrid
15:00 – 15:20	Regional activities and strategies of the OIE SRR for Southern Africa	B. J. Mtei
15:20 – 15:40	Regional activities and strategies of the OIE RR for Africa (Bamako)	A. B. Niang
15:40 – 16:00	Discussion and closing remarks by the chair	B. J. Mtei
16:00 – 16:30	Afternoon break – Coffee/Tea	
16:30 – 17:00	Seminar impact assessment (questionnaire)	D. Bourzat
17:00 – 17:30	Final discussions, feed-back from participants and closing	B. J. Mtei & M. Gonzalez

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*Group photograph of the participants, trainers and OIE staff.*

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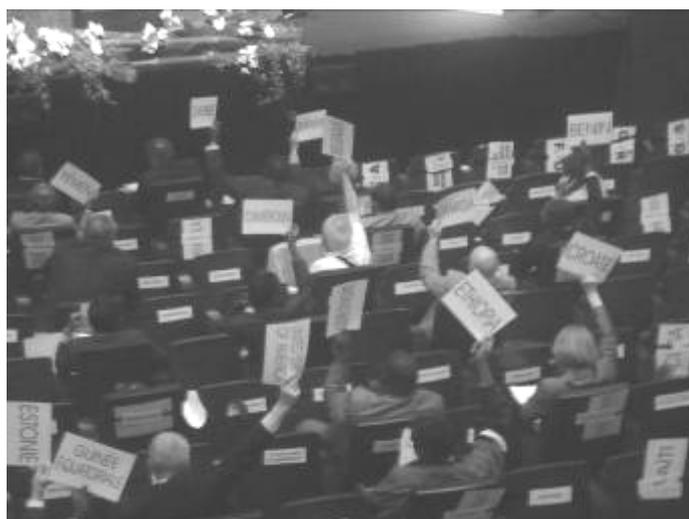
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## SEMINAR BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

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The OIE *Sub-Regional Representation* (SRR) for Southern Africa was established in Gaborone in 2005, following agreements signed between the OIE and SADC Secretariat (2003) and the Government of Botswana (2006). OIE has benefited from EDF funds (European Commission) to support the establishment of the OIE Sub Regional Representation, as well as to conduct capacity building activities for veterinary services in the SADC region. In addition, the Africa region, i.e. the three regional and sub-regional representations in Bamako, Tunis and Gaborone now benefit from funds from the European Commission Directorate DG-SANCO (*Health and Consumers*) through the “*Better Training for Safer Food*” (BTSF) programme, under which the present training course is funded.

In line with the OIE’s overall mandates, this orientation workshop will deal with providing recently appointed national OIE Delegates with the necessary information, updates and skills to better assume their responsibilities and obligations as Delegates of the OIE in their respective countries. The OIE has 175 Member Countries, which include more than 120 developing countries. Worldwide, OIE Delegates turnover is about 25% per year. Indeed, this turnover of OIE Delegates is a recurring problem. Very often the position of OIE Delegate is linked to the position of CVO (*Chief Veterinary Officer*) and these positions tend to be renewed with new government or with changes in policy or e.g. when a new cabinet and a new Minister are appointed. Over the past 2.5 years (since January 2007), OIE Delegates have changed in 26 African OIE member countries (out of 52, 50%), in some countries even twice during this period (e.g. Gabon). The new OIE Delegates frequently have only a very limited knowledge of the way the OIE operates, the stakes involved, and the implications of the application of the WTO Agreement on the Application of *Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures* (SPS).



*Delegates voting during the 2009 General Session in Paris  
2009 © P. Bastiaensen (OIE)*

The latter WTO-SPS Agreement defines the sanitary rules governing trade in animals, plants, agricultural products and food commodities. The standards developed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) are recognised as a reference for the application of the WTO-SPS Agreement for the trade in animals and animal products for the protection of animal and human health. Each OIE Member Country is represented in the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (previously known as International Committee) by the Delegate, who is usually the country’s Chief Veterinary Officer and therefore the person responsible for ensuring the application of the WTO-SPS Agreement for the trade in animals and animal products.

The objectives of the training course therefore are:

- to clarify the rights and obligations of OIE Delegates and OIE Member Countries;
- to improve appropriation of the OIE international standards in relation to the WTO-SPS Agreement;
- to improve participation of OIE Member Countries in the setting of international standards;
- to improve quality of epidemiological information, notably that managed by the OIE;
- to facilitate application of the principles of transparency, equivalence and regionalisation in the African context;
- to facilitate appropriation of Veterinary Services assessment skills;
- to encourage OIE Member Countries to carry out assessment of their own national Veterinary Services in order to identify areas that could be improved or strengthened;
- to facilitate implementation of policies that comply with the provisions of the WTO-SPS Agreement;
- to help reduce unjustified trade barriers in the trade of animals and animal products, notably during sanitary emergency situations.

At the end of the training workshop, the participants:

- should be aware of their country's stakes, in relation to OIE and WTO principles and procedures.
- should know about the rights and obligations of OIE Member countries and of the OIE National Delegates;
- should know how to apply the WTO-SPS Agreement with focus on international trade of animals and animal products;
- should be able to apply the guidelines and OIE PVS tools for the assessment/evaluation of Veterinary Services;
- should be aware of the requirements for epidemiological surveys/investigations on domestic, wildlife and aquatic animal populations;
- should be aware of the necessity to notify without delay significant epidemiology events of OIE -listed animal disease;
- should be fully conversant with the mandates, vision, missions and operation of the OIE;
- should be familiar with the various information resources available on the OIE websites (international and continental), and
- should be aware of OIE Member country's administrative and financial obligations.

In addition, in the medium to long-term, it is expected that the training will lead to more active participation in the development processes and adoption of the OIE standards.

The target group consists of thirty (30) OIE Delegates, most of them appointed after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. These OIE Delegates represent the following OIE member countries: ANGOLA, BOTSWANA, BURKINA FASO, CAMEROON, CAPE VERDE, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, COMOROS, DJIBOUTI, EGYPT, ETHIOPIA, GABON, GAMBIA, GHANA, KENYA, LIBYA, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALI, MAURITIUS, NAMIBIA, NIGER, NIGERIA, SÃO TOME & PRINCIPE, SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE, SOMALIA, SUDAN, SWAZILAND, TANZANIA and TOGO. *Please refer to the map below.*



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WTO AGREEMENT ON THE APPLICATION OF SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

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Members,

Reaffirming that no Member should be prevented from adopting or enforcing measures necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health, subject to the requirement that these measures are not applied in a manner which would constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination between Members where the same conditions prevail or a disguised restriction on international trade;

Desiring to improve the human health, animal health and phytosanitary situation in all Members;

Noting that sanitary and phytosanitary measures are often applied on the basis of bilateral agreements or protocols;

Desiring the establishment of a multilateral framework of rules and disciplines to guide the development, adoption and enforcement of sanitary and phytosanitary measures in order to minimize their negative effects on trade;

Recognizing the important contribution that international standards, guidelines and recommendations can make in this regard;

Desiring to further the use of harmonized sanitary and phytosanitary measures between Members, on the basis of international standards, guidelines and recommendations developed by the relevant international organizations, including the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the International Office of Epizootics, and the relevant international and regional organizations operating within the framework of the International Plant Protection Convention, without requiring Members to change their appropriate level of protection of human, animal or plant life or health;

Recognizing that developing country Members may encounter special difficulties in complying with the sanitary or phytosanitary measures of importing Members, and as a consequence in access to markets, and also in the formulation and application of sanitary or phytosanitary measures in their own territories, and desiring to assist them in their endeavours in this regard;

Desiring therefore to elaborate rules for the application of the provisions of GATT 1994 which relate to the use of sanitary or phytosanitary measures, in particular the provisions of Article XX(b) ;

Hereby agree as follows:

Article 1

General Provisions

1. This Agreement applies to all sanitary and phytosanitary measures which may, directly or indirectly, affect international trade. Such measures shall be developed and applied in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.
2. For the purposes of this Agreement, the definitions provided in Annex A shall apply.
3. The annexes are an integral part of this Agreement.
4. Nothing in this Agreement shall affect the rights of Members under the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade with respect to measures not within the scope of this Agreement.

Article 2  
Basic Rights and Obligations

1. Members have the right to take sanitary and phytosanitary measures necessary for the protection of human, animal or plant life or health, provided that such measures are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Agreement.
2. Members shall ensure that any sanitary or phytosanitary measure is applied only to the extent necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health, is based on scientific principles and is not maintained without sufficient scientific evidence, except as provided for in paragraph 7 of Article 5.
3. Members shall ensure that their sanitary and phytosanitary measures do not arbitrarily or unjustifiably discriminate between Members where identical or similar conditions prevail, including between their own territory and that of other Members. Sanitary and phytosanitary measures shall not be applied in a manner which would constitute a disguised restriction on international trade.
4. Sanitary or phytosanitary measures which conform to the relevant provisions of this Agreement shall be presumed to be in accordance with the obligations of the Members under the provisions of GATT 1994 which relate to the use of sanitary or phytosanitary measures, in particular the provisions of Article XX(b).<sup>1</sup>

Article 3  
Harmonization

1. To harmonize sanitary and phytosanitary measures on as wide a basis as possible, Members shall base their sanitary or phytosanitary measures on international standards, guidelines or recommendations, where they exist, except as otherwise provided for in this Agreement, and in particular in paragraph 3.
2. Sanitary or phytosanitary measures which conform to international standards, guidelines or recommendations shall be deemed to be necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health, and presumed to be consistent with the relevant provisions of this Agreement and of GATT 1994.
3. Members may introduce or maintain sanitary or phytosanitary measures which result in a higher level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection than would be achieved by measures based on the relevant international standards, guidelines or recommendations, if there is a scientific justification, or as a consequence of the level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection a Member determines to be appropriate in accordance with the relevant provisions of paragraphs 1 through 8 of Article 5.<sup>2</sup> Notwithstanding the above, all measures which result in a level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection different from that which would be achieved by measures based on international standards, guidelines or recommendations shall not be inconsistent with any other provision of this Agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> In this Agreement, reference to Article XX(b) includes also the chapeau of that Article.

<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of paragraph 3 of Article 3, there is a scientific justification if, on the basis of an examination and evaluation of available scientific information in conformity with the relevant provisions of this Agreement, a Member determines that the relevant international standards, guidelines or recommendations are not sufficient to achieve its appropriate level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection.

4. Members shall play a full part, within the limits of their resources, in the relevant international organizations and their subsidiary bodies, in particular the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the International Office of Epizootics, and the international and regional organizations operating within the framework of the International Plant Protection Convention, to promote within these organizations the development and periodic review of standards, guidelines and recommendations with respect to all aspects of sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

5. The Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures provided for in paragraphs 1 and 4 of Article 12 (referred to in this Agreement as the "Committee") shall develop a procedure to monitor the process of international harmonization and coordinate efforts in this regard with the relevant international organizations.

#### Article 4 Equivalence

1. Members shall accept the sanitary or phytosanitary measures of other Members as equivalent, even if these measures differ from their own or from those used by other Members trading in the same product, if the exporting Member objectively demonstrates to the importing Member that its measures achieve the importing Member's appropriate level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection. For this purpose, reasonable access shall be given, upon request, to the importing Member for inspection, testing and other relevant procedures.

2. Members shall, upon request, enter into consultations with the aim of achieving bilateral and multilateral agreements on recognition of the equivalence of specified sanitary or phytosanitary measures.

#### Article 5 Assessment of Risk and Determination of the Appropriate Level of Sanitary or Phytosanitary Protection

1. Members shall ensure that their sanitary or phytosanitary measures are based on an assessment, as appropriate to the circumstances, of the risks to human, animal or plant life or health, taking into account risk assessment techniques developed by the relevant international organizations.

2. In the assessment of risks, Members shall take into account available scientific evidence; relevant processes and production methods; relevant inspection, sampling and testing methods; prevalence of specific diseases or pests; existence of pest- or disease-free areas; relevant ecological and environmental conditions; and quarantine or other treatment.

3. In assessing the risk to animal or plant life or health and determining the measure to be applied for achieving the appropriate level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection from such risk, Members shall take into account as relevant economic factors: the potential damage in terms of loss of production or sales in the event of the entry, establishment or spread of a pest or disease; the costs of control or eradication in the territory of the importing Member; and the relative cost-effectiveness of alternative approaches to limiting risks.

4. Members should, when determining the appropriate level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection, take into account the objective of minimizing negative trade effects.

5. With the objective of achieving consistency in the application of the concept of appropriate level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection against risks to human life or health, or to animal and plant life or health, each Member shall avoid arbitrary or unjustifiable distinctions in the levels it considers to be appropriate in different situations, if such distinctions result in discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade. Members shall cooperate in the Committee, in accordance with paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Article 12, to develop guidelines to further the practical implementation of this provision. In developing the guidelines, the Committee shall take into account all relevant factors, including the exceptional character of human health risks to which people voluntarily expose themselves.

6. Without prejudice to paragraph 2 of Article 3, when establishing or maintaining sanitary or phytosanitary measures to achieve the appropriate level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection, Members shall ensure that such measures are not more trade-restrictive than required to achieve their appropriate level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection, taking into account technical and economic feasibility.<sup>3</sup>

7. In cases where relevant scientific evidence is insufficient, a Member may provisionally adopt sanitary or phytosanitary measures on the basis of available pertinent information, including that from the relevant international organizations as well as from sanitary or phytosanitary measures applied by other Members. In such circumstances, Members shall seek to obtain the additional information necessary for a more objective assessment of risk and review the sanitary or phytosanitary measure accordingly within a reasonable period of time.

8. When a Member has reason to believe that a specific sanitary or phytosanitary measure introduced or maintained by another Member is constraining, or has the potential to constrain, its exports and the measure is not based on the relevant international standards, guidelines or recommendations, or such standards, guidelines or recommendations do not exist, an explanation of the reasons for such sanitary or phytosanitary measure may be requested and shall be provided by the Member maintaining the measure.

## Article 6

### Adaptation to Regional Conditions, Including Pest- or Disease-Free Areas and Areas of Low Pest or Disease Prevalence

1. Members shall ensure that their sanitary or phytosanitary measures are adapted to the sanitary or phytosanitary characteristics of the area - whether all of a country, part of a country, or all or parts of several countries - from which the product originated and to which the product is destined. In assessing the sanitary or phytosanitary characteristics of a region, Members shall take into account, inter alia, the level of prevalence of specific diseases or pests, the existence of eradication or control programmes, and appropriate criteria or guidelines which may be developed by the relevant international organizations.

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<sup>3</sup> For purposes of paragraph 6 of Article 5, a measure is not more trade-restrictive than required unless there is another measure, reasonably available taking into account technical and economic feasibility, that achieves the appropriate level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection and is significantly less restrictive to trade.

2. Members shall, in particular, recognize the concepts of pest- or disease-free areas and areas of low pest or disease prevalence. Determination of such areas shall be based on factors such as geography, ecosystems, epidemiological surveillance, and the effectiveness of sanitary or phytosanitary controls.

3. Exporting Members claiming that areas within their territories are pest- or disease-free areas or areas of low pest or disease prevalence shall provide the necessary evidence thereof in order to objectively demonstrate to the importing Member that such areas are, and are likely to remain, pest- or disease-free areas or areas of low pest or disease prevalence, respectively. For this purpose, reasonable access shall be given, upon request, to the importing Member for inspection, testing and other relevant procedures.

## Article 7

### Transparency

Members shall notify changes in their sanitary or phytosanitary measures and shall provide information on their sanitary or phytosanitary measures in accordance with the provisions of Annex B.

## Article 8

### Control, Inspection and Approval Procedures

Members shall observe the provisions of Annex C in the operation of control, inspection and approval procedures, including national systems for approving the use of additives or for establishing tolerances for contaminants in foods, beverages or feedstuffs, and otherwise ensure that their procedures are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Agreement.

## Article 9

### Technical Assistance

1. Members agree to facilitate the provision of technical assistance to other Members, especially developing country Members, either bilaterally or through the appropriate international organizations. Such assistance may be, inter alia, in the areas of processing technologies, research and infrastructure, including in the establishment of national regulatory bodies, and may take the form of advice, credits, donations and grants, including for the purpose of seeking technical expertise, training and equipment to allow such countries to adjust to, and comply with, sanitary or phytosanitary measures necessary to achieve the appropriate level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection in their export markets.

2. Where substantial investments are required in order for an exporting developing country Member to fulfil the sanitary or phytosanitary requirements of an importing Member, the latter shall consider providing such technical assistance as will permit the developing country Member to maintain and expand its market access opportunities for the product involved.

## Article 10

### Special and Differential Treatment

1. In the preparation and application of sanitary or phytosanitary measures, Members shall take account of the special needs of developing country Members, and in particular of the least-developed country Members.
2. Where the appropriate level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection allows scope for the phased introduction of new sanitary or phytosanitary measures, longer time-frames for compliance should be accorded on products of interest to developing country Members so as to maintain opportunities for their exports.
3. With a view to ensuring that developing country Members are able to comply with the provisions of this Agreement, the Committee is enabled to grant to such countries, upon request, specified, time-limited exceptions in whole or in part from obligations under this Agreement, taking into account their financial, trade and development needs.
4. Members should encourage and facilitate the active participation of developing country Members in the relevant international organizations.

## Article 11

### Consultations and Dispute Settlement

1. The provisions of Articles XXII and XXIII of GATT 1994 as elaborated and applied by the Dispute Settlement Understanding shall apply to consultations and the settlement of disputes under this Agreement, except as otherwise specifically provided herein.
2. In a dispute under this Agreement involving scientific or technical issues, a panel should seek advice from experts chosen by the panel in consultation with the parties to the dispute. To this end, the panel may, when it deems it appropriate, establish an advisory technical experts group, or consult the relevant international organizations, at the request of either party to the dispute or on its own initiative.
3. Nothing in this Agreement shall impair the rights of Members under other international agreements, including the right to resort to the good offices or dispute settlement mechanisms of other international organizations or established under any international agreement.

## Article 12

### Administration

1. A Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures is hereby established to provide a regular forum for consultations. It shall carry out the functions necessary to implement the provisions of this Agreement and the furtherance of its objectives, in particular with respect to harmonization. The Committee shall reach its decisions by consensus.

2. The Committee shall encourage and facilitate ad hoc consultations or negotiations among Members on specific sanitary or phytosanitary issues. The Committee shall encourage the use of international standards, guidelines or recommendations by all Members and, in this regard, shall sponsor technical consultation and study with the objective of increasing coordination and integration between international and national systems and approaches for approving the use of food additives or for establishing tolerances for contaminants in foods, beverages or feedstuffs.
3. The Committee shall maintain close contact with the relevant international organizations in the field of sanitary and phytosanitary protection, especially with the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the International Office of Epizootics, and the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention, with the objective of securing the best available scientific and technical advice for the administration of this Agreement and in order to ensure that unnecessary duplication of effort is avoided.
4. The Committee shall develop a procedure to monitor the process of international harmonization and the use of international standards, guidelines or recommendations. For this purpose, the Committee should, in conjunction with the relevant international organizations, establish a list of international standards, guidelines or recommendations relating to sanitary or phytosanitary measures which the Committee determines to have a major trade impact. The list should include an indication by Members of those international standards, guidelines or recommendations which they apply as conditions for import or on the basis of which imported products conforming to these standards can enjoy access to their markets. For those cases in which a Member does not apply an international standard, guideline or recommendation as a condition for import, the Member should provide an indication of the reason therefor, and, in particular, whether it considers that the standard is not stringent enough to provide the appropriate level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection. If a Member revises its position, following its indication of the use of a standard, guideline or recommendation as a condition for import, it should provide an explanation for its change and so inform the Secretariat as well as the relevant international organizations, unless such notification and explanation is given according to the procedures of Annex B.
5. In order to avoid unnecessary duplication, the Committee may decide, as appropriate, to use the information generated by the procedures, particularly for notification, which are in operation in the relevant international organizations.
6. The Committee may, on the basis of an initiative from one of the Members, through appropriate channels invite the relevant international organizations or their subsidiary bodies to examine specific matters with respect to a particular standard, guideline or recommendation, including the basis of explanations for non-use given according to paragraph 4.
7. The Committee shall review the operation and implementation of this Agreement three years after the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement, and thereafter as the need arises. Where appropriate, the Committee may submit to the Council for Trade in Goods proposals to amend the text of this Agreement having regard, inter alia, to the experience gained in its implementation.

## Article 13

### Implementation

Members are fully responsible under this Agreement for the observance of all obligations set forth herein. Members shall formulate and implement positive measures and mechanisms in support of the observance of the provisions of this Agreement by other than central government bodies. Members shall take such reasonable measures as may be available to them to ensure that non-governmental entities within their territories, as well as regional bodies in which relevant entities within their territories are members, comply with the relevant provisions of this Agreement. In addition, Members shall not take measures which have the effect of, directly or indirectly, requiring or encouraging such regional or non-governmental entities, or local governmental bodies, to act in a manner inconsistent with the provisions of this Agreement. Members shall ensure that they rely on the services of non-governmental entities for implementing sanitary or phytosanitary measures only if these entities comply with the provisions of this Agreement.

## Article 14

### Final Provisions

The least-developed country Members may delay application of the provisions of this Agreement for a period of five years following the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement with respect to their sanitary or phytosanitary measures affecting importation or imported products. Other developing country Members may delay application of the provisions of this Agreement, other than paragraph 8 of Article 5 and Article 7, for two years following the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement with respect to their existing sanitary or phytosanitary measures affecting importation or imported products, where such application is prevented by a lack of technical expertise, technical infrastructure or resources.

## ANNEX A

### DEFINITIONS <sup>4</sup>

1. Sanitary or phytosanitary measure - Any measure applied:

(a) to protect animal or plant life or health within the territory of the Member from risks arising from the entry, establishment or spread of pests, diseases, disease-carrying organisms or disease-causing organisms;

(b) to protect human or animal life or health within the territory of the Member from risks arising from additives, contaminants, toxins or disease-causing organisms in foods, beverages or feedstuffs;

(c) to protect human life or health within the territory of the Member from risks arising from diseases carried by animals, plants or products thereof, or from the entry, establishment or spread of pests; or

(d) to prevent or limit other damage within the territory of the Member from the entry, establishment or spread of pests.

Sanitary or phytosanitary measures include all relevant laws, decrees, regulations, requirements and procedures including, inter alia, end product criteria; processes and production methods; testing, inspection, certification and approval procedures; quarantine treatments including relevant requirements associated with the transport of animals or plants, or with the materials necessary for their survival during transport; provisions on relevant statistical methods, sampling procedures and methods of risk assessment; and packaging and labelling requirements directly related to food safety.

2. Harmonization - The establishment, recognition and application of common sanitary and phytosanitary measures by different Members.

3. International standards, guidelines and recommendations

(a) for food safety, the standards, guidelines and recommendations established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission relating to food additives, veterinary drug and pesticide residues, contaminants, methods of analysis and sampling, and codes and guidelines of hygienic practice;

(b) for animal health and zoonoses, the standards, guidelines and recommendations developed under the auspices of the International Office of Epizootics;

(c) for plant health, the international standards, guidelines and recommendations developed under the auspices of the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention in cooperation with regional organizations operating within the framework of the International Plant Protection Convention; and

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<sup>4</sup> For the purpose of these definitions, "animal" includes fish and wild fauna; "plant" includes forests and wild flora; "pests" include weeds; and "contaminants" include pesticide and veterinary drug residues and extraneous matter.

(d) for matters not covered by the above organizations, appropriate standards, guidelines and recommendations promulgated by other relevant international organizations open for membership to all Members, as identified by the Committee.

4. Risk assessment - The evaluation of the likelihood of entry, establishment or spread of a pest or disease within the territory of an importing Member according to the sanitary or phytosanitary measures which might be applied, and of the associated potential biological and economic consequences; or the evaluation of the potential for adverse effects on human or animal health arising from the presence of additives, contaminants, toxins or disease-causing organisms in food, beverages or feedstuffs.

5. Appropriate level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection - The level of protection deemed appropriate by the Member establishing a sanitary or phytosanitary measure to protect human, animal or plant life or health within its territory.

*NOTE: Many Members otherwise refer to this concept as the "acceptable level of risk".*

6. Pest- or disease-free area - An area, whether all of a country, part of a country, or all or parts of several countries, as identified by the competent authorities, in which a specific pest or disease does not occur.

*NOTE: A pest- or disease-free area may surround, be surrounded by, or be adjacent to an area - whether within part of a country or in a geographic region which includes parts of or all of several countries -in which a specific pest or disease is known to occur but is subject to regional control measures such as the establishment of protection, surveillance and buffer zones which will confine or eradicate the pest or disease in question.*

7. Area of low pest or disease prevalence - An area, whether all of a country, part of a country, or all or parts of several countries, as identified by the competent authorities, in which a specific pest or disease occurs at low levels and which is subject to effective surveillance, control or eradication measures.

## ANNEX B

### TRANSPARENCY OF SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY REGULATIONS

#### Publication of regulations

1. Members shall ensure that all sanitary and phytosanitary regulations<sup>5</sup> which have been adopted are published promptly in such a manner as to enable interested Members to become acquainted with them.
2. Except in urgent circumstances, Members shall allow a reasonable interval between the publication of a sanitary or phytosanitary regulation and its entry into force in order to allow time for producers in exporting Members, and particularly in developing country Members, to adapt their products and methods of production to the requirements of the importing Member.

#### Enquiry points

3. Each Member shall ensure that one enquiry point exists which is responsible for the provision of answers to all reasonable questions from interested Members as well as for the provision of relevant documents regarding:
  - (a) any sanitary or phytosanitary regulations adopted or proposed within its territory;
  - (b) any control and inspection procedures, production and quarantine treatment, pesticide tolerance and food additive approval procedures, which are operated within its territory;
  - (c) risk assessment procedures, factors taken into consideration, as well as the determination of the appropriate level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection;
  - (d) the membership and participation of the Member, or of relevant bodies within its territory, in international and regional sanitary and phytosanitary organizations and systems, as well as in bilateral and multilateral agreements and arrangements within the scope of this Agreement, and the texts of such agreements and arrangements.
4. Members shall ensure that where copies of documents are requested by interested Members, they are supplied at the same price (if any), apart from the cost of delivery, as to the nationals<sup>6</sup> of the Member concerned.

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<sup>5</sup> Sanitary and phytosanitary measures such as laws, decrees or ordinances which are applicable generally.

<sup>6</sup> When "nationals" are referred to in this Agreement, the term shall be deemed, in the case of a separate customs territory Member of the WTO, to mean persons, natural or legal, who are domiciled or who have a real and effective industrial or commercial establishment in that customs territory.

## Notification procedures

5. Whenever an international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist or the content of a proposed sanitary or phytosanitary regulation is not substantially the same as the content of an international standard, guideline or recommendation, and if the regulation may have a significant effect on trade of other Members, Members shall:

- (a) publish a notice at an early stage in such a manner as to enable interested Members to become acquainted with the proposal to introduce a particular regulation;
- (b) notify other Members, through the Secretariat, of the products to be covered by the regulation together with a brief indication of the objective and rationale of the proposed regulation. Such notifications shall take place at an early stage, when amendments can still be introduced and comments taken into account;
- (c) provide upon request to other Members copies of the proposed regulation and, whenever possible, identify the parts which in substance deviate from international standards, guidelines or recommendations;
- (d) without discrimination, allow reasonable time for other Members to make comments in writing, discuss these comments upon request, and take the comments and the results of the discussions into account.

6. However, where urgent problems of health protection arise or threaten to arise for a Member, that Member may omit such of the steps enumerated in paragraph 5 of this Annex as it finds necessary, provided that the Member:

- (a) immediately notifies other Members, through the Secretariat, of the particular regulation and the products covered, with a brief indication of the objective and the rationale of the regulation, including the nature of the urgent problem(s);
- (b) provides, upon request, copies of the regulation to other Members;
- (c) allows other Members to make comments in writing, discusses these comments upon request, and takes the comments and the results of the discussions into account.

7. Notifications to the Secretariat shall be in English, French or Spanish.

8. Developed country Members shall, if requested by other Members, provide copies of the documents or, in case of voluminous documents, summaries of the documents covered by a specific notification in English, French or Spanish.

9. The Secretariat shall promptly circulate copies of the notification to all Members and interested international organizations and draw the attention of developing country Members to any notifications relating to products of particular interest to them.

10. Members shall designate a single central government authority as responsible for the implementation, on the national level, of the provisions concerning notification procedures according to paragraphs 5, 6, 7 and 8 of this Annex.

## General reservations

11. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as requiring:

- (a) the provision of particulars or copies of drafts or the publication of texts other than in the language of the Member except as stated in paragraph 8 of this Annex; or
- (b) Members to disclose confidential information which would impede enforcement of sanitary or phytosanitary legislation or which would prejudice the legitimate commercial interests of particular enterprises.

## ANNEX C

### CONTROL, INSPECTION AND APPROVAL PROCEDURES <sup>7</sup>

1. Members shall ensure, with respect to any procedure to check and ensure the fulfilment of sanitary or phytosanitary measures, that:

- (a) such procedures are undertaken and completed without undue delay and in no less favourable manner for imported products than for like domestic products;
- (b) the standard processing period of each procedure is published or that the anticipated processing period is communicated to the applicant upon request; when receiving an application, the competent body promptly examines the completeness of the documentation and informs the applicant in a precise and complete manner of all deficiencies; the competent body transmits as soon as possible the results of the procedure in a precise and complete manner to the applicant so that corrective action may be taken if necessary; even when the application has deficiencies, the competent body proceeds as far as practicable with the procedure if the applicant so requests; and that upon request, the applicant is informed of the stage of the procedure, with any delay being explained;
- (c) information requirements are limited to what is necessary for appropriate control, inspection and approval procedures, including for approval of the use of additives or for the establishment of tolerances for contaminants in food, beverages or feedstuffs;
- (d) the confidentiality of information about imported products arising from or supplied in connection with control, inspection and approval is respected in a way no less favourable than for domestic products and in such a manner that legitimate commercial interests are protected;
- (e) any requirements for control, inspection and approval of individual specimens of a product are limited to what is reasonable and necessary;
- (f) any fees imposed for the procedures on imported products are equitable in relation to any fees charged on like domestic products or products originating in any other Member and should be no higher than the actual cost of the service;
- (g) the same criteria should be used in the siting of facilities used in the procedures and the selection of samples of imported products as for domestic products so as to minimize the inconvenience to applicants, importers, exporters or their agents;

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<sup>7</sup> Control, inspection and approval procedures include, *inter alia*, procedures for sampling, testing and certification.

(h) whenever specifications of a product are changed subsequent to its control and inspection in light of the applicable regulations, the procedure for the modified product is limited to what is necessary to determine whether adequate confidence exists that the product still meets the regulations concerned; and

(i) a procedure exists to review complaints concerning the operation of such procedures and to take corrective action when a complaint is justified.

Where an importing Member operates a system for the approval of the use of food additives or for the establishment of tolerances for contaminants in food, beverages or feedstuffs which prohibits or restricts access to its domestic markets for products based on the absence of an approval, the importing Member shall consider the use of a relevant international standard as the basis for access until a final determination is made.

2. Where a sanitary or phytosanitary measure specifies control at the level of production, the Member in whose territory the production takes place shall provide the necessary assistance to facilitate such control and the work of the controlling authorities.

3. Nothing in this Agreement shall prevent Members from carrying out reasonable inspection within their own territories.



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