

Speech Dr Fajr Al Salloom

President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East

Honorable Minsters,

His Excellency the President of the World Organization for Animal Health,

Honorable Director of the World Organization for Animal Health,

Honorable Chairman and Members of the Middle East Regional Committee,

Your Excellency directors and representatives of international and regional organizations,

Honorable delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On my behalf and on behalf of the Organizing Committee of the Sixteenth Conference of the Middle East Regional Committee, it is my great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to you all.

In today's event, the objective is to share and present the relevant region-specific topics. As such, in the upcoming 2 days we will be thoroughly discussing and unpacking this subject matter, some of which include:

- Firstly, the challenges in the implementation of the 7th OIE Strategic Plan in a post-pandemic world.
- Secondly, the introduction of the new OIE-WAHIS platform that will provide some regional vision regarding the importance of this implementation.
- Thirdly, the OIE Wildlife Health Framework, and the importance of wildlife surveillance and reporting.
- Finally, an introduction regarding the Global Laboratory Leadership Programme (GLLP) including some ideas on how OIE Members can start engaging in the programme

To sum up, these highlight some of the important issues that will be reviewed with the overall aim of international corporation for controlling and eradicating animal diseases for animal welfare.

I am looking forward for us all to learn and observe from this conference and hope for a successful outcome.

Thank you.