

**17th Conference of WOA Regional Commission for Middle East**  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1 – 5 October 2023

Recommendation No 2

**Ensuring strong performing and financially sustainable Veterinary Services in the Region**

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. Veterinary Services provide the fundamental management system for animal health and welfare and veterinary public health in WOA Members and play a crucial role in ensuring food security and safety and safeguarding health security by controlling animal diseases and tackling emerging zoonoses at their animal sources ;
2. Veterinary Services activities are expanding to embrace evolving trends and challenges, highlighting the need to develop skills and competencies to adapt to these changes;
3. Veterinary Services generate significant financial resources from services rendered and the need for increasing financial investments and funding for animal health and food safety
4. The increasing risk of global health threats, particularly outbreaks of transboundary animal diseases and emerging zoonoses, can rapidly expand to affect multiple Members, highlighting the need for mutual assistance among Members and collective and coordinated preparedness and response, nationally, regionally and globally;
5. The Middle East region remains vulnerable to increased risk of introduction and spread of animal diseases and zoonoses via trade and cross border movements of animals and animal products;
6. Controlling transboundary animal diseases (such as PPR and FMD) of concern for the Middle East are a shared interest between infected and uninfected Members and should be considered as a global public good;
7. The PVS Pathway missions conducted over the past decade have shown that Veterinary Services are chronically under-funded in many Members with critical deficiencies in various competencies of the veterinary domain;
8. Members in the Middle East give a strategic importance to capacity building to develop and maintain a skilled, competent and appropriately resourced workforce in order to address the challenges facing national Veterinary Services in the region; and
9. During the 15th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle, Members were encouraged to facilitate the establishment of legal and administrative frameworks for effective, efficient and sustainable PPPs.

## THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR MIDDLE EAST RECOMMENDS THAT

### GOVERNMENTS OF MEMBERS:

1. Deploy all efforts to further invest in the animal health sector and the Veterinary Services to strengthen their governance, sustainability and capabilities to meet national, regional and international obligations, including with WOA, therefore contributing to the achievement of the SDGs by 2030;
2. Develop a regional strategy creating an enabling environment for cooperation, collaboration and solidarity between the Members in the region and beyond to collectively address challenges facing the Veterinary Services including the risk of introduction and spread of diseases through uncontrolled cross border animal movements and regional and interregional trade.

### THE VETERINARY AUTHORITIES OF THE MEMBERS

3. Further engage in the PVS pathway and implement the relevant PVS report recommendations to improve the capability of their Veterinary Services for effective control of the sanitary status of animals and animal products;
4. Pursue their efforts to update and complete their legislative and regulatory frameworks to increase authority of each element in the veterinary domain, and to implement and enforce the overall animal health and welfare policies and strategies in compliance with WOA standards;
5. Strengthen existing national financial mechanisms and actively seek alternative financial arrangements, for example engaging with the private sector and other relevant competent authorities to help leverage the necessary expertise and resources, developing advocacy packages to build the case for engagement and investment in animal health, while setting up priorities and generating additional revenue streams for long term sustainability;
6. Commit to capacity building activities, in coordination with WOA and development partners to strengthen the competencies of public and private veterinary services for ensuring better animal health and welfare and safer trade in animals and animal products;
7. Work actively with WOA and partners to utilise funding opportunities for building resilient and sustainable health systems including prevention, preparedness and response to pandemics, global strategies and initiatives and other global efforts such as prevention and control of AMR, global eradication of PPR and Rabies by 2030.

### AND THAT WOA

8. Continue to support Members through the PVS pathway and associated capacity building programmes to improve the performance of their VS particularly in management and regulatory aspects, strategic planning, animal health surveillance systems, laboratory capacities, disease control policies and trade in animals and animal products;
9. Work closely with partners such as FAO, WHO and UNEP, as well as resource partners to support Members in building the capacity of their Veterinary Services to effectively manage the risk of transboundary animal diseases and emerging zoonoses of global and regional concern; and
10. Continue through its Regional and Sub Regional Representations, and in collaboration with its global partners, support the Members to strengthen regional cooperation and coordination and maintain a regular dialogue on disease control policies and emerging regional issues pertaining to animal health and welfare, food security and global health security.