

**OIE Workshop on Avian Influenza Preparedness
in the Middle East
Beirut, 18 – 21 April, 2006**

Draft Recommendation No. 1

CONSIDERING THAT:

- **The unprecedented spread of avian influenza from Asia to Eastern and Western Europe to Africa and countries within the Middle East, and the possible risk of spread of the virus to non-infected countries within the region,**
- **The recommendations on the control of avian influenza at the meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, in Bahrain, 26-29 September 2005,**
- **That the OIE has developed the concept of the PVS – plan (Performance-Vision-Strategy) to enhance and strengthen the capacity of OIE Member Countries to apply the international standards of the OIE to promote animal health,**
- **The aims and objectives of the OIE/FAO Strategic Plan: *A Global Strategy for the Progressive Control of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza* that was adopted and published by the OIE in 2005 to enable developing countries to meet OIE international standards to improve animal health.**
- **During the Beijing Conference, the international community made a commitment to support the Veterinary Services of 140 developing and in-transition countries at risk. OIE standards, in particular, and OIE and FAO guidelines will be used to determine priority areas for improving VS for which funding will be provided to countries that so request;**

**THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE MIDDLE EAST ATTENDING THE WORKSHOP
RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. **OIE Member Countries in the Middle East should become and remain fully prepared to implement control measures against avian influenza.**
2. **Member Countries in the Middle East be urged to invest in the capacity building of their Veterinary Services and the continuous**

evaluation and auditing thereof to ensure compliance with the international standards of the OIE for the trade in animals and animal products.

- 3. Member Countries be encouraged to participate in the coming joint meetings to be held by the OIE and FAO on the role of migratory birds, and the possible application of vaccination strategies.**
- 4. Inter-sectoral collaboration between the Veterinary Services and the public health authorities and other relevant sectors in countries of the region should be improved to strengthen efforts to prevent the introduction and spread of Avian Influenza.**
- 5. Member Countries fully support the initiatives of the OIE in collaboration with the FAO to assist countries to improve their veterinary services and to make full use of the Performance, Vision and Strategy (PVS) initiative of the OIE to evaluate and improve the delivery of veterinary services in their countries for the implementation of international standards in animal health and zoonoses according to the position of donors during the Beijing Conference in January 2006.**
- 6. Countries which so wish prepare investment dossiers as part of their HPAI preparedness plans relating to strengthening of VS taking as objective compliance with OIE standards on the quality of VS.**