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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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73RD MEETING OF THE SPS COMMITTEE

COMMUNICATION FROM THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE)

The following communication, received on 11 October 2018, is being circulated at the request of the OIE.

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) is pleased to provide this report for the information of WTO Members attending the 73rd meeting of the SPS Committee.

1 DEVELOPMENTS IN THE OIE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR TERRESTRIAL AND AQUATIC ANIMALS

1.1. The four OIE Specialist Commissions met during September 2018 at the OIE Headquarters to continue working on the development and review of OIE international standards. The reports of these meetings, including draft new and revised standards for comment, will be available on the OIE website during November 2018. The links to the reports can be accessed below:

- [Biological Standards Commission](#);
- [Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases](#) (Scientific Commission);
- [Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission](#) (Aquatic Animals Commission);
- [Terrestrial Animal Health Commission](#) (Code Commission).

1.2. The OIE would like to highlight to the SPS Committee the ongoing high priority work on the revision of the OIE standards related to the categorization of official BSE risk status and infection with avian influenza viruses. The work on BSE is to develop revised standards appropriate to the current BSE risk. The revision of Chapter 10.4. Infection with avian influenza viruses is to develop a revised standard, including a proposed new definition of "poultry", and to address the issues of the different requirements for notification, prevention, control and surveillance associated with LPAI and HPAI.

2 INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

2.1 OIE Global Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance – Marrakesh (Morocco), 29-31 October 2018

2.1. The second OIE Global conference comes at a critical juncture in the fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Member countries have demonstrated an impressive commitment to development of national capacity in this effort in line with international standards. To build upon and further inform this momentum, this conference will bring together OIE delegates and National Focal Points for veterinary products, as well as experts, professionals, policy makers, international organisations and donors, with the aim to increase understanding of the global situation on antimicrobial resistance in animals, and to develop recommendations for future sustained control of AMR while ensuring animal health, animal welfare, veterinary public health and food security. Particularly, it will provide a forum to examine how to best support member countries in continued fulfilment of the objectives of the OIE Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials and the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance.

2.2. The programme, presentations and recommendations from the Conference will be available on the [OIE website](#).

2.2 OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health, Santiago (Chile), 2-4 April 2019

2.3. The OIE is working on the preparations for a Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health to be held in 2019, possible topic to be included on the programme are:

- Managing transboundary diseases including emerging diseases;
- Biosecurity;
- Advances in disease management;
- Supporting implementation of OIE standards.

2.4. Further information on the programme for the Conference will be on the [OIE website](#) in the coming months.

3 MONITORING THE USE OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

3.1. The OIE continues to encourage member countries to apply OIE international standards, particularly, in light of new information regarding the disease situation of exporting countries. Members are reminded that the Terrestrial Animal Health Code and Aquatic Animal Health Code respectively aim to assure the sanitary safety of international trade in terrestrial animals and aquatic animals, and their products. These standards, when correctly applied, should not be used as unjustified barriers to trade.

3.2. The OIE continues to work with member countries to provide guidance and assistance in respect to the implementation of its standards.

3.3. Information relating to the OIE's activities related to the development of the Observatory for monitoring the implementation of standards can be found on the [OIE website](#).

4 CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

4.1. OIE capacity-building activities also include Seminars for Recently Appointed OIE Delegates and Regional Seminars for the OIE National Focal Points appointed for eight different areas (Animal Disease Notification to the OIE, Veterinary Products, Communication, Animal Production Food Safety, Animal Welfare, Veterinary Laboratories, Wildlife and Aquatic Animals). The aim of this programme is to provide good governance concepts for improving animal health, animal welfare and food safety of animal-origin products at the national, regional and international level, and to explain and clarify the role and responsibilities of newly-appointed OIE Delegates and of OIE National Focal Points with respect to OIE activities.

4.2. These seminars provide participants with knowledge about the rights, commitments and responsibilities of OIE Delegates and OIE National Focal Points in the OIE standard-setting process and provide a forum for discussion of implementation and compliance with the OIE international standards. They allow the participants to acquire knowledge about the roles and responsibilities of Veterinary Services and other relevant competent authorities, about relevant OIE international standards and about the specific tasks expected of National Focal Points in their respective areas. These training sessions are also fora for experience sharing and discussion among countries within a region.
