



74TH MEETING OF THE SPS COMMITTEE

COMMUNICATION FROM THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE)

The following communication, received on 27 February 2019, 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 74th meeting of the SPS Committee.

The report summarises key activities in the OIE's standard-setting work programme, along with updates on OIE capacity building activities.

1 DEVELOPMENTS IN THE OIE STANDARDS FOR TERRESTRIAL AND AQUATIC ANIMALS

1.1. The four Specialist Commissions met during February 2019 at the OIE Headquarters to continue work to review existing, and develop new, OIE international standards in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, the Aquatic Animal Health Code, the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals and the Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals, along with other activities relevant to each Commission's terms of reference.

1.2. As the outcomes of these meetings were not available at the time this report was compiled, a verbal update will be provided to the Committee on key outcomes.

1.3. Reports of these four meetings, including new and revised standards to be proposed for adoption at the 87th OIE General Session in May 2019 or circulated for member comment, will be available on the OIE website during April 2019. The links to these reports, once available, are provided below:

- [Biological Standards Commission](#) February 2019 meeting report;
- [Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases](#) February 2019 meeting report;
- [Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission](#) February 2019 meeting report;
- [Terrestrial Animal Health Commission](#) February 2019 meeting report.

2 PROVISION OF SCIENTIFIC ADVICE TO THE OIE AND ITS MEMBER COUNTRIES

2.1 OIE ad hoc Groups

2.1. The Director General establishes ad hoc Groups to provide specific technical and scientific advice required to support the work of the OIE and the OIE Specialist Commissions. The OIE publishes information on its website providing the dates and terms of reference of proposed ad hoc Groups as well as reports once these have been validated and considered by the relevant Specialist Commissions.

2.2. This information is available on the OIE website at: [ad hoc Groups information](#).

3 MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION OF OIE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS – OBSERVATORY PROJECT

3.1. The OIE has initiated the creation of an Observatory to monitor the implementation of its standards in order to identify the difficulties and constraints faced by member countries.

3.2. Through the Observatory, the OIE will be better able to determine the effectiveness and practicability of its standards in order to propose solutions to member countries. The expected outcomes include more effective implementation of OIE standards and information to assist the OIE to develop a more strategic focus to its capacity building activities.

3.3. The project for the establishment of the Observatory follows a phased-approach. The first phase was aimed at understanding the problem and advocating to member countries the need for a new mechanism of monitoring and evaluation (2017-2018). This first phase was achieved through the adoption by the World Assembly of OIE Delegates of [Resolution N°36](#) at the 86th General Session in May 2018.

3.4. The OIE is currently implementing the second phase of the project which aims to define the design of the Observatory (2018-2019). To achieve this purpose, the OIE is collaborating with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The OECD, in the context of the Partnership of International Organisations for effective international rule-making, is conducting an analysis of the concept of "implementation" of OIE standards and a review of the existing mechanisms supporting the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of OIE standards. Based on this work, the OECD will provide the OIE with recommendations and scenarios for the design of the Observatory.

3.5. The third phase of the project will be the development of a roadmap to build the Observatory (2019-2020).

3.6. A specific governance for the Observatory project has been established. The OIE Council provides strategic decisions while a Reference Group provides technical advice to support the project. The Reference Group was formally launched in January 2019 and is composed of experts from member countries (Canada, China, Chile, New Zealand, South Africa, Tunisia), Regional Economic Communities (European Commission, Eurasian Economic Commission, Gulf Cooperation Council) and relevant international organisations (Codex Alimentarius, IPPC, FAO, OECD, STDF and WTO).

3.7. Further information regarding the OIE Observatory project is available on the [OIE website](#).

4 ANIMAL HEALTH INFORMATION

4.1. The World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) is becoming OIE-WAHIS.

4.2. WAHIS is an intrinsic and fundamental part of the OIE's mandate and a vital tool for the 182 OIE members to continue 'Ensuring Trust through Transparency and Communication' of the global animal disease situation in a timely manner. WAHIS enables the collection and the dissemination of data on animal diseases of epidemiological significance in both domestic species and wildlife and is vital for the global dissemination of information on animal disease events, including zoonotic pathogens. The sustainability of this platform and its continued use by national Veterinary Services is at the core of the OIE Sixth Strategic Plan 2016-2020 and will continue to remain a key priority for the OIE.

4.3. Since 2016 the OIE has embarked on a ten-year process of modernising its existing animal health information system (WAHIS). The new system will be called OIE-WAHIS and will be launched in the second semester of 2019.

4.4. OIE-WAHIS will constitute a completely redesigned platform and will incorporate a transdisciplinary and holistic approach to data collection, analysis and dissemination – not only addressing animal diseases – but also public health. Moreover, as OIE-WAHIS moves forward, it will progressively incorporate climate and environmental data sources. OIE-WAHIS will have a faster and more intuitive user-friendly system with new features, which will include extended data analytics, customisable data queries and enhanced mapping and data visualisation capabilities.

The dynamic, interactive, ergonomic national dashboards will have integrated analytical capabilities and enable data to be extracted and uploaded in a wide range of formats (e.g. PDF, Excel, CSV and as an image). Building bridges between OIE-WAHIS and national/regional databases will support this endeavour and regional initiatives are already underway.

5 OIE DATA COLLECTION ON ANTIMICROBIAL AGENTS INTENDED FOR USE IN ANIMALS

5.1. The OIE publishes an annual report on the use of antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals following an annual round of data collection from OIE members.

5.2. The [Third OIE Annual Report](#) was published in February 2019 and presents findings of the third annual data collection on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals, providing global and regional analysis for the period from 2015 to 2017. Members reporting data have grown from 130 members for its first report in 2016 to 155 members for this third report. The third report also includes evidence on the barriers that some countries experienced in reporting quantitative data on antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals. Additionally, this report provides calculations of animal biomass for food-producing species from 91 members reporting quantitative data for the year 2015, and allowed for an analysis of antimicrobial quantities reported adjusted by a denominator.

5.3. The fourth data collection round of the OIE Global Database has also commenced.

6 INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

6.1 OIE Global Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance and Prudent Use of Antimicrobials in Animals: Putting Standards into Practice – Marrakesh (Morocco), 29–31 October 2018

6.1. The second OIE Global conference brought together government Ministers, Ministers, OIE Delegates and National Focal Points for Veterinary Products, as well as experts, professionals, policy makers, international organisations and donors. The aim was to increase understanding of the global situation on antimicrobial resistance in a One Health approach and to develop recommendations for future sustained control of AMR while ensuring animal health, animal welfare, veterinary public health and food security. It provided a forum to examine how to best support OIE members to continue to meet the objectives of the OIE Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials and the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance. The recommendations of the Conference further encourage OIE members to contribute to the OIE annual collection of data on antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals, and to publish, whenever possible, their own national reports on the sales or use of antimicrobials agents in relation to the animal population of the country.

6.2. The programme, presentations and recommendations from the Conference are available on the [OIE website](#).

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

6.3. The fourth OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health will bring together OIE National Delegates and National Focal Points for Aquatic Animals, other national government representatives, representatives of the OIE Reference Centres, representatives of relevant International Organisations and international and national private sector representatives. The Conference will highlight the critical contribution of aquatic animal health programmes to improving aquaculture productivity and sustainability, and consequently the availability of high-quality protein to feed the world. It will also raise awareness of the need for good governance of Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services, including both governmental and private sectors, promoting collaboration between veterinarians, aquatic animal health professionals, and other partners in assuring safe and sustainable aquaculture production. The Conference programme will focus on four key themes: Managing transboundary and emerging diseases; Biosecurity in aquaculture; Advances in disease management; Supporting implementation of the OIE International standards.

6.4. Further information on the Conference is available on the [OIE website](#).
