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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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81ST MEETING OF THE SPS COMMITTEE

COMMUNICATION FROM THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE)

The following communication, received on 13 October 2021, 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 81st meeting of the SPS Committee.

The report summarizes 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 OIE Specialist Commissions met virtually during September 2021 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 circulated for member comments, will be available on the OIE website during November 2021. The links to these reports, once available, are provided below:

- [Biological Standards Commission](#) September 2021 meeting report;
- [Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases](#) September 2021 meeting report;
- [Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission](#) September 2021 meeting report;
- [Terrestrial Animal Health Commission](#) September 2021 meeting report.

1.4. The OIE would like to highlight to the Committee the following work undertaken during these September meetings.

1.5. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). The Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (TAHSC) in collaboration with the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (SCAD), together with the recommendations from several OIE ad hoc Groups, has undertaken an in-depth review of Chapter 11.4, Bovine spongiform encephalopathy, of the Terrestrial Code. Amendments include updated provisions on the categorization of official BSE risk status as well as revised provisions on BSE risk assessment and surveillance. The revised chapter was circulated for member comments in the TAHSC September 2021 report. The revised chapter will be proposed for adoption at the 2022 General Session.

1.6. Rinderpest. The deadliest cattle disease in history, was officially declared eradicated from the world in 2011. Chapter 8.16, Infection with rinderpest virus, remained in the Terrestrial Code to

address the risk of re-emergence. In 2020, a thorough review of Chapter 8.16. was conducted to improve surveillance, notification, and control provisions. The structure of the chapter and the trade provisions were also revised to ensure the maintenance of global freedom and its prompt recovery in the case of re-emergence. The revised chapter was circulated for member comments in the TAHSC September 2021 report. The revised chapter will be proposed for adoption at the 2022 General Session.

1.7. Infection with foot and mouth disease virus. The TAHSC, in collaboration with the SCAD, has progressed the revision of Chapter 8.8, Infection with foot and mouth disease virus, of the Terrestrial Code. The revised chapter addresses several long-standing issues and was circulated for another round of member comments in the TAHSC September 2021 report.

1.8. Section 5 Trade measures, import/export procedures and veterinary certification of the Terrestrial Code. The TAHSC agreed that a number of chapters in Section 5 of the Terrestrial Code should be revised to improve recommendations regarding the risk management measures for the importation of live animals and animal products. The TAHSC agreed to prioritize the revision of Chapters 5.4, 5.5, 5.6 and 5.7 to address the key steps in the process of international trade, including measures at origin, in transit, and on arrival.

1.9. Mammalian tuberculosis (infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex). The Biological Standards Commission, together with the recommendations of an OIE ad hoc Group, developed a new chapter to broaden the scope from bovine tuberculosis to mammalian tuberculosis, including specific information relevant to cattle, goats and camelids. The new draft Chapter 3.1.X will be circulated for member comments in October 2021 and will be proposed for adoption at the 2022 General Session. Once adopted Chapter 3.4.6, Bovine tuberculosis will be deleted from the Terrestrial Manual.

1.10. Chapter 1.4. Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance of the Aquatic Code. The Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (AAHSC) has continued its substantial revision of Chapter 1.4. to provide guidance for self-declaration of freedom from disease, rather than providing general guidance on aquatic animal health surveillance. This revision also supports the work being undertaken to revise Articles X.X.4–X.X.8 in the disease-specific chapters of the Aquatic Code which provide recommendations for the demonstration of disease freedom. The revised Chapter 1.4. and model Articles X.X.4–X.X.8 were circulated for member comments in the AAHSC September 2021 report and will be proposed for adoption at the 2022 General Session.

1.1 Developments of case definitions for OIE-listed terrestrial animal diseases

1.11. The OIE maintains a list of terrestrial animal diseases that are of international concern due to their effect on animal or human health, and OIE members are obliged to notify the OIE when an OIE-listed disease (Chapter 1.3 Diseases, infections and infestations listed by the OIE, of the *Terrestrial Code*) is detected in their country, zone or compartment. To support OIE members' shared common understanding of what constitutes a 'case' for the purposes of notification, the OIE launched an initiative prioritizing the development of case definitions for those OIE-listed terrestrial animal diseases that do not have a case definition in the Terrestrial Code. To date, six new case definitions have been developed (three of which are available on the OIE website), with another eight currently under development.

2 ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)

2.1. Following the adoption of Resolution 14 "OIE's engagement in the One Health Global Effort to Control Antimicrobial Resistance" by the World Assembly of OIE Delegates in May 2019, a Working Group on AMR was established to support the implementation of the OIE Global Strategy on AMR. The Working Group has met five times, with the 5th meeting in October 2021. All meeting reports are available at: [Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance - OIE - World Organisation for Animal Health](#).

2.2. A major output of the Working Group has been the publication of the "Technical Reference Document Listing Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance for Poultry", which complements the OIE List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance (available as Appendix III of the

October 2020 meeting report). Using the same methodology, the Working Group is currently working on a Technical reference document for swine and aquatic animals.

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

3.1. 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.

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

4 SELF-DECLARED DISEASE STATUS

4.1. Since the adoption of the revised Chapter 1.6, specifically the provisions on publication by the OIE of a self-declaration of animal health status by a member, and Chapter 10.4, Infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses (HPAI) at the OIE General Session in May 2021, the OIE has received a significant number of applications from members for publication of self-declarations for HPAI. One significant change in the revised Chapter 1.4. was the reduced period of recovery of free status from a minimum period of three months to a minimum period of 28 days after applying a stamping-out policy and surveillance that has demonstrated absence of infection. The OIE will continue to screen these applications and consider them for publication in accordance with its [Standard Operating Procedure](#).

5 GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR THE GLOBAL CONTROL OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

5.1. In July 2020, the OIE, in collaboration with FAO under the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) launched a joint initiative for the Global Control of African Swine Fever (ASF GI), which aimed at bringing stakeholders from multiple sectors together to improve coordination and galvanize the sustained effort and political will needed for the global control of ASF.

5.2. Important activities under the ASF GI included an online event in June 2021 on public-private partnership (PPP) for ASF to highlight the central role of PPPs and promote the engagement and collaboration of the public and private sectors in the ASF GI, and the upcoming launch of the Standing Group of Experts on ASF for Africa to enhance regional coordination of ASF control activities. The first Annual report of the ASF GI for the year 2020 was published, highlighting the progress and showcasing some of the activities achieved. The annual report may be found at: [Global Control of African swine fever. A GF-TADs initiative - 2020 annual report - OIE - World Organisation for Animal Health](#).

5.3. With the recent outbreak of ASF in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, several activities were organized by the GF-TADs to coordinate activities in the region, including emergency meetings with Veterinary Authorities, along with key partner organizations in the region such as OIRSA (International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health), OIPORC (Ibero-American Pig Organization), IICA (Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture), CAN (Andean Community), CaribVET (Caribbean Animal Health Network) and the CVP (Standing Veterinary Committee) to exchange information, mobilize resources and organize capacity-building activities for the region.

6 CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

6.1 Performance of Veterinary Services Pathway (PVS Pathway) for the sustainable improvement of national Veterinary Services: New developments

6.1. The OIE has initiated a process for digitalization of the PVS Pathway to offer greater flexibility and efficiency in terms of delivery.

6.2. PVS Evaluation missions: a pilot "blended format" for PVS evaluation and follow-up missions is being developed which will involve a physical mission by PVS experts from the region working together with some experts participating remotely.

6.3. PVS Gap Analysis missions: the approach for PVS Gap Analysis missions and its link to Strategic Planning Support methodology are currently under revision to allow for remote delivery. This review will also include incorporating a greater focus on national priorities, and facilitate more active inputs from the country requesting the mission. The first remote pilot mission took place in August-September 2021 in Kazakhstan.

6.4. Targeted Support missions: PVS Sustainable Laboratory Support and PVS Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP) have been successfully delivered in a new fully remote format during 2021 (Liberia and Togo, respectively).

7 OIE TRAINING PLATFORM: VETERINARY SERVICES COMPETENCIES FOR TRADE

7.1. As part of the reform of its training system initiated in 2018, the OIE is developing its [Competency-based Training Framework](#) structured around 16 Competency Packages that form the architecture of the OIE future training programmes, both for distance and face-to-face delivery.

7.2. The objective of this Framework is to support the implementation of OIE standards by Veterinary Services worldwide. One Competence Package will be dedicated to trade and will be populated with approximately 30 e-modules, mainly to help OIE members implement Section 5 of the OIE Terrestrial Code. By the end of 2022, we plan to have developed the first batch of around 10 e-modules that will address international trade regulatory framework, import risk analysis, animal health status and regionalization, pre-export and import measures and control.

7.3. Guidelines on the production of e-modules have just been published and guidelines on learning needs assessments are under development and will assist members to conduct their own learning needs assessment, in particular on aspects of trade.

7.4. Since 2019, newly appointed Delegates and Focal Points have access to an e-training package on their rights and responsibilities as an OIE member, the OIE mandate, mission and main activities, the OIE international standards and the standard-setting process, and on the quality of Veterinary Services.
