



Organisation
Mondiale
de la Santé
Animale

World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal

21st Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for the Americas
Bridgetown, Barbados, 26-29 November 2012

FINAL REPORT

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List of Abbreviations

ALA	Latin American Poultry Association
APHIS	United States Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
AVMA	American Veterinary Medical Association
BSE	Bovine spongiform encephalopathy
CAHFSA	Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency
CAN	Andean Community
CanNAISS	Canadian Notifiable Avian Influenza Surveillance System
CaribVET	Caribbean Animal Health Surveillance Network
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CEBASEV	Buenos Aires Training Centre for Veterinary Services (<i>Centro Buenos Aires para la Capacitación de los Servicios Veterinarios</i>)
CIRAD	Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (<i>Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement</i>)
CMAEE	Emerging and Exotic Animal Disease Control (<i>Contrôle des maladies animales exotiques et émergentes</i>)
CNA	Agriculture and Livestock Confederation of Brazil
COFREPRIS	Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risk (<i>Comisión Federal para la Protección de Riesgos Sanitarios</i>)
COSALFA	South American Committee for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease
CSF	Classical swine fever
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
CVP	Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone
DGSG	General Directorate for Livestock Services
EC	European Commission
EEAS	European External Action Service
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
ELISA	Enzyme-linked immuno sorbent assay
EMBRAPA	Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation
EU	European Union
EUS	Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FARM	Federation of rural associations of MERCOSUR
FMD	Foot and mouth disease
FMD-PCP	Progressive Control Pathway for FMD
GF-TADs	Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases
GSCAN	General Secretariat of the Andean Community of Nations
HPAI	Highly pathogenic avian influenza
IHN	Infectious haematopoietic necrosis
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
ILAR	Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources

IMV	Institute of Veterinary Medicine of Cuba
INRA	French National Institute for Agricultural Research (<i>Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique</i>)
INTA	National Agricultural Technology Institute
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
ISA	Infectious salmon anaemia
ISBN	International Standard Book Number
LADIVES	Vesicular Disease Diagnostic Laboratory
MERCOSUR	Southern Common Market
NAFMDOB	North American Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine Bank
NVSL	National Veterinary Services Laboratories
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
OIRSA	Regional International Organization for Animal and Plant Health
PAEFA	Foot and Mouth Disease Emergency Project PAHO Panamerican Health Organization
PANAFTOSA	Pan-American Health Organization
PRONEFA	National FMD eradication programme
PVS	OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services
REDINFAS	National Network on wildlife diseases information (<i>Red Nacional de información sobre enfermedades de la fauna silvestre</i>)
RR/SRR	Regional and Sub-Regional Representations
SAG	Agriculture and Livestock Service
SASA	Andean agricultural health system
SENASA	National Health and Agrifood Quality Service
SENASICA	National Health Safety and Agriculture and Food Quality Service (<i>Servicio Nacional de Sanidad, Inocuidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria</i>)
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
SSCP	Shrimp Surveillance and Certification Programme
TB	Bovine Tuberculosis
UMR	Mix Unit of Research (Unite mixte de recherche)
UNA	National Poultry Farmers' Union (<i>Unión Nacional de Avicultores</i>)
USA	United States of America
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
VEPHFS	Veterinary epidemiology veterinary public health and food safety
VS	Veterinary Services
WAHID	World Animal Health Information Database
WAHIS	World Animal Health Information System
WAHWF	OIE World Fund for Animal Health and Welfare
WHO	World Health Organization
WSPA	World Society for Animal Protection
WTO	World Trade Organization

Introduction

1. At the kind invitation of the Government of Barbados, the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas was held in Bridgetown from 26 to 29 November 2012.
2. A total of 80 participants, comprising OIE Delegates and/or nominees of 25 Members and 6 observer countries and senior officers from 12 regional and international organisations attended the conference. In addition, representatives of the private sector and private veterinary organisations from the region were present. Dr Bernard Vallat, OIE Director General, Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, President of the OIE, Dr Mark Trotman, Delegate of Barbados and Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, Dr John Clifford, President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, Dr Alejandro Thiermann, President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission, Dr François Caya, Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, Dr Luis Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, Dr Filiberto Frago, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for the Americas and Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, also participated in the Conference. Technical Items I and II were presented by the following speakers: Dr Ernesto Fabián Mendoza Mainegra from the Institute of Veterinary Medicine of Cuba (IMV) and Dr Thierry Lefrancois, Director UMR CMAEE CIRAD-INRA (Emerging and Exotic Animal Disease Control), who had honoured the Conference by their presence.

Monday 26 November 2012

Opening ceremony

3. The opening ceremony was chaired by Dr Mark Trotman, OIE Delegate of Barbados, accompanied by the following distinguished personalities:
 - Dr John Clifford, Delegate of the United States of America and President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas
 - Dr Luis O Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas
 - Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Delegate of Germany and President of the World Assembly of Delegates
 - Dr Bernard Vallat, OIE Director General
 - Mr Michael King, Permanent Secretary, Minister of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management of Barbados
4. Dr John Clifford, OIE Delegate of the United States of America and President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas welcomed all the participants to the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas. He warmly thanked Dr Mark Trotman, OIE Delegate of Barbados, as well as the authorities of that country for hosting this important event.
5. Dr Luis Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas joined Dr Clifford in welcoming participants and wished the Conference be an opportunity to have interesting discussion with fruitful outcomes for the Region.
6. The speeches pronounced by the OIE President, the OIE Director General and Mr. Michael King, Permanent Secretary, Minister of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management of Barbados are appended to the report.

Election of the Conference Committee

7. The Conference Committee was elected as follows:

Chairperson: Dr Mark Trotman (Barbados)
Vice-Chairperson: Dr Hugo Fragoso Sánchez (Mexico)
Rapporteur General: Dr Miguel Azañon (Guatemala)

Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Timetable

8. The Provisional Agenda and Timetable were adopted.

Designation of Session Chairpersons and Rapporteurs

9. Chairpersons and Rapporteurs were designated for the technical items as follows:

Item I: Dr John Clifford (United States of America), Chairman
Dr Max Millien (Haiti), Rapporteur

Item II: Dr Francisco Muzio (Uruguay), Chairman
Dr Rafael Bienvenido Nuñez (Dominican Rep.), Rapporteur

Animal health situation: Dr Guilherme Henrique Figueiredo Marques (Brasil), Chairman
Dr Brian Evans (Canada), Rapporteur

Update on the OIE Vision

10. The Session Chairperson, Dr Mark Trotman, invited Dr Bernard Vallat, OIE Director General, to present an update on the OIE Vision.
11. Dr Vallat began his presentation by providing short background information on the OIE between its establishment in 1924 and now, when the organisation had 178 Member Countries.
12. The Director General then commented on the OIE Fifth Strategic Plan 2011-2015, highlighting the key concepts and tools to be used by the OIE during this period. He pointed out that the Fifth Strategic Plan was in line with OIE historic overall objectives.
13. The Director General highlighted three of the key concepts in the OIE Strategic Plan: Global Public Good, 'One Health' and Good Veterinary Governance. All three concepts are relevant when it comes to improving animal health worldwide while ensuring animal welfare, food security, food safety and alleviation of poverty.
14. Dr Vallat also recalled the OIE's reference role as the international standard-setting organisation for animal health issues in relation to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement).
15. He pointed out that the OIE's role in the scientific management of animal welfare had grown to the point where the OIE was now recognised as the pre-eminent source of standards, guidelines, information and advice on animal welfare worldwide.

16. Dr Vallat reminded Delegates that another key element of the Fifth Strategic Plan was strengthening good governance of Veterinary Services, which would be achieved by improving legislation, supporting Members' compliance with OIE international standards on the quality of Veterinary Services and continuously building the capacity of Member Countries' Veterinary Services.
17. He also highlighted the importance of veterinary statutory bodies which, while not being part of the Veterinary Authority, are nonetheless vital in supporting the good governance of Veterinary Services as a whole.
18. Referring to the current global context, the Director General started by showing trends on world population growth together with demand for animal protein, indicating that consumption would increase by 50% in the near future, mainly in developing and transition countries.
19. He emphasised that the risk of diseases spreading around the world increased with such factors as: globalisation; unprecedented movements of people, animals and animal products; changes in farming systems; and climate change.
20. Dr Vallat noted the growing importance of veterinary public health owing to the zoonotic potential of animal pathogens, bearing in mind that 60% of human pathogens (infectious diseases) and 75% of emerging diseases were zoonotic, and 80% of potential bioterrorism agents were zoonotic pathogens.
21. In discussing the new concepts to be used for promoting the protection of countries and regions from current and emerging threats to animals and humans, Dr Vallat began by highlighting the Global Public Good concept. Global Public Goods are those whose benefits extend to all countries, people and generations. Animal health systems are global public goods because controlling and eradicating infectious animal diseases, including zoonoses, bring broad national, international and inter-generational benefits.
22. With regard to good governance of Veterinary Services, Dr Vallat explained that the OIE continued to work towards strengthening technical capabilities, management and veterinary legislation via the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund and in cooperation with global and regional partners.
23. He also discussed the outcomes of the Ministerial Declaration of the Meeting of G20 Agriculture Ministers, held in June 2011, highlighting the importance of early disease detection and of relevant international standards, areas where the OIE, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), Codex Alimentarius Commission, International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and WTO were encouraged to continue their efforts towards enhancing inter-agency cooperation.
24. In this connection, the Director General commented on the Tripartite Concept Note prepared by the OIE, FAO and WHO to strengthen collaboration between the three organisations in sharing responsibilities and coordinating global activities to address health risks at the animal-human-ecosystems interfaces.
25. Dr Vallat also summarised the outcomes of the High Level Technical Meeting to address Health Risks at the Human-Animal-Ecosystems Interfaces, held in Mexico City in November 2011, which encouraged, among other things: the establishment of strong governance structures and aligned legal frameworks; the use of inter-sectoral approaches to risk assessment and risk mitigation for health issues at the human-animal-ecosystems interfaces; and joint training, simulation exercises, coordinated evaluation and gap analysis of national human and animal health systems.

26. He stressed the three priority topics adopted by the three organisations: rabies, zoonotic influenza and antimicrobial resistance.
27. The Director General went on to describe recent OIE achievements, highlighting the successful outcome of the highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 crisis, as well as the unprecedented efforts by the veterinary community that had led to official recognition for 198 countries worldwide as rinderpest free, as declared by the 79th General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates.
28. Dr Vallat pointed out that the global rinderpest eradication programme had demonstrated that eradication relied on: a long term vision; the commitment of governments; support from the international community and regional organisations; and dedicated international platforms for coordination, together with efficient tools for control and eradication and key involvement of National Veterinary Services. He highlighted the importance of continuing the joint efforts in the post-eradication phase.
29. Dr Vallat went on to affirm that disease control at source was key to enhancing animal health, improving food security and mitigating poverty, in particular through: surveillance, early warning, reporting and effective response; commitment to public-private partnerships; investment in Veterinary Services and disease control programmes as global public goods; and good governance of the public and private components of Veterinary Services and compliance with OIE standards.
30. He added that animal health crises, causing considerable economic losses, might be prevented at a reasonable cost through the appropriate implementation of OIE standards on good governance by all those concerned.
31. On the subject of on-going OIE activities, Dr Vallat highlighted the following: strengthening Veterinary Services through capacity building, such as regular seminars for newly assigned OIE Delegates; establishment of topic-specific National Focal Points in each OIE Member Country and organisation of regular seminars for all; network of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres; laboratory twinning initiative; OIE scientific and normative publications; and the OIE PVS Pathway, which is a continuous process aimed at improving Veterinary Service compliance with international standards sustainably.
32. Dr Vallat also commented on important OIE initiatives, including: support with implementing the recommendations of the recent FAO/OIE Global Conference on Foot and Mouth Disease Control; establishment of OIE standards and recommendations for the global control of other diseases such as rabies and peste des petits ruminants (PPR); promotion of government and donor consensus; support from international donors, including foundations; new twinning projects for veterinary education establishments and veterinary statutory bodies; and OIE policy on disease surveillance and notification, including in wildlife, official recognition of disease status in preparation for PPR and classical swine fever.
33. The OIE Director General concluded his presentation by affirming that the OIE would continue supporting its Members by: setting internationally recognised standards and guidelines on animal health, veterinary public health, including food safety and animal welfare; disseminating scientific and animal health information; recognising the disease-free status of countries/zones; contributing to the global control of foot and mouth disease (FMD), rabies in dogs and PPR; providing technical and political support for good governance and Veterinary Services using the PVS Pathway and other capacity-building activities; supporting veterinary education; supporting a better quality, more organised veterinary profession; and influencing governments to secure greater recognition of the key role of veterinarians in society.

Discussions

34. The Chairman of the Conference thanked Dr Vallat for his very interesting and well documented presentation on the OIE Vision and opened the floor for discussion.
35. Dr Victor Manuel Vidal, Vice-President of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, thanked Dr Vallat for his presentation and requested further clarification of the programme he had mentioned in his address for twinning veterinary education establishments. He asked for details on the implications of this programme and on whether students could participate in twinning projects between institutions.
36. Dr Vallat explained that there would be a more detailed presentation on the matter but nevertheless provided details on the programme for twinning veterinary education establishments, pointing out that a guide and a core model veterinary curriculum had been developed relevant to the delivery of quality public and private sector components of national Veterinary Services. This guide would enable veterinary education establishments in the different regions to form partnerships and, in particular, to organise three-year teacher and student exchanges.
37. The Delegate of Jamaica, speaking on OIE membership for the few countries in the Region that were not yet members, said that one of the biggest challenges that needed to be addressed was how to help these countries to facilitate payment of the annual OIE contribution.
38. Dr Vallat explained that the statutory contributions of OIE Members were divided into six categories and that countries were free to choose their contribution category. He told countries that the OIE contribution was already one of the lowest of all organisations, making it impossible to reduce them further.
39. The Director General said that the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund had been created precisely to request additional contributions from developed countries wishing to help the OIE to finance the various capacity-building activities for Member Countries.
40. Dr Vallat stressed that the balance between the different categories had been decided democratically. The amount paid by the poorest countries on the United Nations list is 50% of the official amount. He noted that there were many poor countries with no debts to the OIE that paid their contributions every year without any problems.
41. Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, said that, although times were hard, it was impossible for the OIE to provide training and meet all Member Countries' needs and demands free of charge. She stressed that a balance needed to be sought between countries' compulsory contributions and the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund.
42. The Delegate of Jamaica welcomed the different opinions regarding his concern about the contributions of poor countries. He said that it would be useful to study the various options for at least facilitating the participation of countries in the various OIE activities.
43. The Delegate of Haiti told the Conference that, in Haiti's experience, the problem with contributions was not one of money but of political will. Dr Millien said that, following a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture and a number of exchanges between the Delegate and the Ministry, Haiti had been paying its contributions for two years with no problems.
44. He urged all Members struggling to pay the annual OIE contribution to contact their ministries to convince them of the OIE's importance and the need to comply with the minimum required of every Member Country. He acknowledged that the OIE contribution was really low compared with contributions to other organisations.

45. Dr Mark Trotman underlined that this was a political issue and that Delegates needed to be able to promote the OIE's work among their country's ministers and convince them of the importance of being an active member of the OIE.
46. The Delegate of Paraguay, referring to the various issues raised in Dr Vallat's presentation, expressed concern about public-private partnerships and the difficulty of determining the scope of each sector's responsibilities and their respective roles. He asked Dr Vallat to shed more light on the strategy for delineating and defining these roles.
47. Referring to the different comments, Dr Vallat pointed out that 30 countries had joined the OIE since his mandate had begun, most of which were poor countries. Dr Vallat said this proved that it was a matter not of money but of political will. The solution is to inform the country's authorities fully and for Delegates to remain in constant contact with their ministers and convince them of the importance of being Members and of participating actively in the OIE. He added that there were many possible solutions for defraying the contributions, at least initially, and one was to request support from the private sector or donors.
48. Referring to the comments by the Delegate of Haiti, Dr Vallat applauded the country's efforts and acknowledged the Delegate's work in conveying to his authorities the importance of being an OIE Member. Dr Vallat confirmed that, despite being one of the world's poorest countries, Haiti paid its OIE contribution every year.
49. In answer to the question from the Delegate of Paraguay, Dr Vallat explained that standards on the quality of Veterinary Services existed to prevent conflicts of interest between the public and private sectors. He stressed that private sector involvement was key to eradicating diseases. The public sector should have the power to enforce the standards because there are always people who flout the rules and therefore posed a threat to others.
50. He concluded that OIE standards were clear on the responsibilities of the public sector and that the best way of preventing conflict was to enforce these standards.
51. The Delegate of Panama addressed the floor to comment on an executive order by Panama to formalise the work of the Delegate of Panama to the OIE and the role of its focal points. This ensures that, even if the Delegate changes, any programmes and projects initiated in Panama will continue. He also reported that an agreement concluded with the university had led to some changes in the veterinary faculty's curriculum, testifying to Panama's compliance with OIE guidelines.
52. The Delegate of Brazil congratulated Dr Vallat on his presentation and said that countries needed to take a political decision regarding the importance of the OIE. He urged countries to bear in mind their obligations to the various international organisations. He said that all countries had legislation on relations between the public and private sectors and that, as this legislation delineated the activities of the various stakeholders, no conflicts should arise between sectors or, in any event, the legislation should make it easier to prevent or resolve them. He concluded that economic factors were not the only problem countries had to face but that it was also necessary for Veterinary Services to reassure its people and for countries to give the proper place to Veterinary Services within their sphere of operation.
53. The President of the federation of rural associations of MERCOSUR (FARM) described FARM activities, saying that rural associations had been established allowing producers to come together, guided by OIE standards. This shows that the private sector is working and has organised itself to cooperate with the OIE.

Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas

54. The Conference Chairman, Dr Mark Trotman, invited Dr John Clifford, Delegate of the United States of America and President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, to present a report on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas.
55. Dr Clifford began his presentation by stating that the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas had met on several occasions in 2012. The Bureau of the Commission had had two face-to-face meetings: one in Panama in March and another in Washington DC in August. In addition, the Bureau had met twice by teleconference, once in April and again in July. The meetings had addressed both administrative and technical issues.
56. Dr Clifford highlighted some of the administrative issues that had been discussed, including: how best to position subject-matter experts from the Americas in *ad hoc* Groups; how to encourage the remaining six countries in the Americas to become OIE Members; and which conferences, meetings and workshops to support. He added that a significant amount of time had also been spent on planning the 21st Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas.
57. Dr Clifford also reported that the Bureau of the Commission had agreed to support workshops for aquatic and animal welfare focal points. In addition to these two workshops, in 2013 the Americas would also host the next Global Conference on Veterinary Education and Veterinary Statutory Bodies in Brazil, among others.
58. On the technical side, Dr Clifford stated that the Commission, together with the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, had worked to finalise the draft of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for the Americas.
59. Dr Clifford concluded by saying that the Region of the Americas had received several OIE missions to evaluate the FMD situation in northern South America, as well as several OIE PVS evaluation missions and PVS Gap Analysis missions.

Presentation of the Council

60. Dr Mark Trotman invited Dr Brian Evans, OIE Delegate for Canada, to provide the Commission with an update on the activities of the OIE Council.
61. Dr Evans began by thanking Dr Trotman for the leadership he had shown in the organisation of the Conference. He told the Commission how honoured he feels to represent the Region at the Council together with Dr Carlos Correa, OIE Delegate for Uruguay.
62. He reminded Delegates that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council were currently available on the Delegate website and went on to summarise the main topics discussed at the Council.
63. Dr Evans described the work done so far in implementing the Fifth Strategic Plan and stressed the importance for Member Countries of the Region to become involved in developing the Sixth Strategic Plan.
64. Some topics of interest that would be considered in the upcoming Strategic Plan included: capacity building, global food security, biodiversity, disease status recognition, and the “One Health” concept. He highlighted the importance for the next Strategic Plan to address the concerns of all Members, not just exporting countries.

65. Dr Evans concluded by reiterating the Council's desire to work in close collaboration with the OIE Director General and with the Deputy Director General, Dr Monique Eloit, on the important work done by OIE Headquarters to ensure OIE integrity. Over and above the Council's administrative duties, he explained how necessary it was to ensure that everyone related to the OIE, whether Delegates or experts, should be of the highest calibre, while making sure to recruit the young generation.

Discussions

66. The representative of Argentina thanked Dr Clifford and Dr Evans for their relevant update on institutional activities. Referring to Africa and the European Union, Argentina proposed to work on a common regional position within the Americas Region.
67. The OIE Director General explained that, while the issue of common regional positions deserved to be addressed, regional specificities needed to be taken into account. He reminded Delegates of the structures developed in Africa and the European Union in this area, and said that it would be worth a try in the Americas should the Regional Commission so desire. He pointed out that the Regional Representation could have conflicts of interest if OIE staff were involved in handling the issue of common positions.
68. Dr John Clifford, President of Regional Commission for the Americas, appreciated the comments made thus far and said that, thanks to the Commission, he had been able to speak on behalf of the Region at the last OIE General Session. However, he expressed the concern that such a common position could override the opinion of the minority that is not exposed to the OIE as a whole.
69. The Delegates of Peru and Uruguay supported the suggestion by the representative of Argentina regarding a common position at the regional level. The Delegate of Uruguay said that groundwork would need to be done in order to ascertain potential areas where the Region could work on such common positions.
70. The President of the OIE, Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, said that experience in the Europe region had shown that it could indeed be difficult to reach common positions. She indicated that the work being done in Europe was to identify topics of common interest for all 53 countries, not just European Union Member States. She added that the development of the Sixth Strategic Plan might be a good opportunity to work at a regional level to achieve a common position.
71. The Delegate of Mexico agreed that the possibility of working on a common regional position needed to be explored and pointed out that some regional platforms were already working to some extent on sub-regional positions. He added that any work on common positions should start by identifying topics of common interest.
72. Dr Abelardo de Gracia, representing OIRSA, the regional plant protection and animal health organisation, said that his organisation was already working on common positions within its member countries and that, while it was not possible to reach full agreement, it was useful in achieving a consistent approach.
73. The Delegate of Canada, Dr Brian Evans, while recognising the importance of considering work on a common regional position, said that it was crucial to take into consideration all the dimensions of such an approach, including solidarity in every aspect of the standard-setting process, and what the implementation of such standards implied. In this regard, he said that the strongest message that the Region could send to the World Assembly of Delegates would be to prove its solidarity by all countries together implementing any standards that were adopted.

74. Dr Trotman ended by suggesting that this interesting discussion could be continued at the special session to be held on Thursday afternoon, 29 November 2012.

Report on the activities of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations for the Americas and proposal of activities for 2012/2013

75. Dr Mark Trotman, Chairman of the Conference, invited Dr Luis Barcos, Regional Representative for the Americas, to present the Report of the Activities of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations (RR/SRR).
76. Dr Luis Barcos summarised the activities of the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, saying that the RR/SRR had continued with its previous activities, focusing on strengthening Veterinary Services and their involvement in the updating and enforcement of OIE standards.
77. On the issue of strengthening Veterinary Services, Dr Barcos stated that the RR/SRR had continued to participate in training for OIE National Focal Points and newly assigned OIE Delegates, in addition to providing support with the OIE PVS Pathway and its extension to include aquatic animals, bearing in mind that many Central American and Caribbean countries required support to strengthen their Veterinary Services, as they were some of the least developed countries in the Americas.
78. He added that the Regional Representation had also been actively involved in the Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) with a view to securing OIE leadership in coordinating activities in the Americas, jointly with international and regional organisations.
79. Dr Barcos informed the Regional Commission on the endorsement, by the GF-TADs Global Steering Committee, of the five years Action Plan for the Americas developed by the Regional Steering Committee.
80. He confirmed the diseases considered to be a priority in the region according to the GF-TADs Action plan namely: foot and mouth disease; highly pathogenic avian influenza; Newcastle disease; screwworm; classical swine fever; rabies and bovine spongiform encephalopathy.
81. As regards Focal Points, Dr Barcos mentioned a number of seminars that would be organised in the near future, including seminars for National Focal Points for WAHIS II, another for OIE National Focal Points for animal production food safety and one for National Focal Points for aquatic animals. He also reported on a meeting that had been held for OIE National Focal Points for laboratories, and a web application that had been developed to share information on the capabilities of national laboratories in the region.
82. As regards animal welfare, Dr Barcos confirmed that the RR/SRR would continue to work jointly with the various stakeholders to prepare the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for the Americas, which would be proposed for adoption at the current Conference of the Regional Commission. He added that a Regional Conference on Animal Welfare and International Trade, to be held jointly with the European Union, was planned in Uruguay in 2013.
83. Dr Barcos went on to summarise some of the planned activities for 2013, highlighting training in cost-benefit analysis and the economic management of Veterinary Services, as well as in the implementation of compartmentalisation systems, a veterinary legislation workshop to train experts fluent in the Spanish language, and the promotion and coordination of the regional harmonisation of health requirements for the movement of competition horses.

84. To conclude, Dr Barcos stressed that the RR/SRR would also continue to forge closer links with international organisations, producer organisations, industry, researchers, donors and universities and, as in previous periods, would continue to coordinate and participate in the various regional and national activities requiring OIE presence and action.

Update on OIE standard-setting procedures

85. The Session Chairperson, Dr Mark Trotman, invited Dr Alex Thiermann to present an update on OIE standard-setting procedures.
86. Dr Thiermann addressed the Regional Conference by describing OIE standard-setting procedures and the importance given to OIE standards in the obligations of the WTO SPS Agreement. He emphasised how important it was for all Members to familiarise themselves and become actively involved in the OIE standard-setting process. This should not to be considered as a process limited solely to participation in the General Session but rather as a continuous year-long process culminating in the adoption of well understood, science-based texts by the General Session.
87. He encouraged all Delegates to take a more active part in OIE activities, as at present less than 30% of the region's Members participated. While annual coordination events were to be welcomed, he said that their main objective should not be to develop a common regional position but rather to understand the process and the standards being developed. This made it more likely to reach a common position on most topics as a result.
88. Delegates should also strive to increase the awareness and participation of all relevant stakeholders representing both the private and public sectors. Advantage should also be taken of the various focal points to enhance participation.
89. Dr Thiermann reminded Delegates that it was much easier to reach a consensus in the standard-adoption process than to implement the adopted standards at a regional or even global level. This made it critical to improve the understanding of higher authorities and secure their political will to implement these standards when developing national legislation and import policies.

Technical item I

Disaster management: the role and preparedness of Veterinary Services

90. The Session Chairperson briefly introduced the speaker for this technical item, Dr Ernesto Fabián Mendoza Mainegra from the Institute of Veterinary Medicine of Cuba.
91. Dr Mendoza Mainegra began his presentation by explaining that his report aimed to analyse the actions and capability of Veterinary Services in reducing and managing the risk of biological, natural and technological disasters impacting on the economy, animal health and veterinary public health.
92. He said that the report went on to summarise the answers to a questionnaire from 25 countries in the region.
93. Dr Mendoza Mainegra gave a brief account of countries' answers to the questionnaire, pointing out that, while Veterinary Services were generally involved in disaster risk reduction and management, they had greater presence and leadership in biological disasters. He said that hazard response plans were widely available at national level but that their availability diminished the closer the level descended to the productive base, which was where many of the protective measures must actually be implemented.

94. He added that countries had highlighted issues relating to early warning, early diagnosis and rapid response, as well as veterinary legislation, although some national legislation failed to include certain aspects, hindering Veterinary Authorities' performance.
95. Dr Mendoza Mainegra explained that the report compared the ten (10) diseases considered by most countries to pose a disaster risk to the region with the diseases for which countries had emergency plans. The ten (10) diseases with bioterrorism potential were also identified, but the existence of emergency plans and the implication of Veterinary Services in the control of such diseases is not the same than in the case of the diseases considered to pose a disaster risk. Countries did not link the issue of bioterrorism with disaster risk reduction and management, implying low perception of this potential hazard.
96. Dr Mendoza Mainegra stated that, while most countries reported that their Veterinary Authority was involved in all stages of disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, its level of involvement was low in more than 60% of countries (levels 1 to 3). Although the Veterinary Authority proved to have greater involvement (levels 4 and 5) in the stages relating to biological disasters than to natural/technological disasters, in neither case did it exceed 40% of countries.
97. Dr Mendoza Mainegra said that countries considered it important for the Veterinary Authority to take a stronger leadership role in disaster risk reduction and management within its fields of competence, especially with regard to studies of biological disaster hazards (38.0%), vulnerability (28.0%) and risk (38.0%). Opportunities for training veterinarians in disaster risk reduction and management were considered insufficient, and countries identified this, coupled with material and financial limitations, as the main obstacle to implementing disaster risk reduction and management.
98. He added that there was general agreement that the OIE should be more involved in disaster risk reduction and management through a variety of means (workshops, publications, an OIE Collaborating Centre, National Focal Points and an ad hoc group). Countries had expressed willingness to support other countries in disaster risk reduction and management (76.0%), by providing staff to assist with disaster management (89.5%) and relevant training (63.2%).
99. In view of the importance of systematically implementing the full range of activities required for the prevention, preparedness, response and recovery of disasters of every kind stemming from the increasing incidence and impact of disasters on the international community, Dr Mendoza Mainegra believed that Veterinary Services should steer their work and leadership more towards protecting the animal population, livestock production and veterinary public health, as part of a top-down disaster risk reduction and management strategy from national to grass roots level.
100. Dr Mendoza Mainegra stated that the complexity of current scenarios called for a more holistic approach to problems in order to seek more effective solutions. He added that disaster risk reduction and management strategies elicited more effective veterinary action in response to these challenges, not only because they enabled disaster reduction for animal health to be integrated into each area's development plans but also because they promoted a favourable climate of inter-sectoral and multidisciplinary cooperation at all levels.
101. He had concluded that the view expressed by countries that the OIE should become more involved in disaster risk reduction and management issues to support its Member Countries was based on the premise that, in an increasingly interdependent world, countries must act in a new spirit of partnership to build a planet safe from mounting disaster hazards by protecting animal health in order to safeguard humankind.

102. Finally Dr Mendoza Mainegra emphasised that regional and inter-regional cooperation would also help to achieve real progress in limiting the impact of disasters by means of technology transfer, information sharing and joint activities in the area of disaster prevention and mitigation. Financial resource mobilisation and bilateral and multilateral assistance would be desirable to support this process.

Discussions

103. The Chairperson for this technical item congratulated Dr Mendoza Mainegra on his interesting presentation and opened the floor for discussion.
104. Dr Michael David, member of the United States delegation, asked the speaker how he viewed the OIE's role and capacity in assisting Member Countries on the issue of disaster risk reduction.
105. Dr Percedo Abreu said that, in many cases, there was limited appreciation of the scope of disaster risk reduction and management, as the Veterinary Authority did not consider actions in such areas as contingency, biosecurity, climate change and other programmes to be a risk. This led to contingency programmes for priority diseases being considered as measures for reducing vulnerabilities.
106. She said that all these issues had to be seen by the OIE as "peace time" strategies, in order to reduce vulnerabilities and exposure and to promote preparedness for potential hazards.
107. The Delegate of Chile said that his country currently had contingency plans developed jointly with the private sector.
108. The Delegate of Peru added that, in many cases, it was difficult to implement a preventive approach because no prevention policies were in place, leading to Veterinary Services focusing mainly on disaster mitigation.
109. Dr Percedo Abreu said that countries of the Region had signed the Hyogo Framework for Action, which meant that they had to focus on risk reduction as a preliminary step to contingencies.
110. Strengthening Veterinary Services, professionals and surveillance systems will provide early warning barriers to the emergence and re-emergence of animal diseases and help to reduce vulnerabilities. She added that one of the goals was to build resilience to hazards and that collaboration between the human health and animal health sectors was crucial.
111. She also stressed the need to integrate "One Health" concepts into the OIE PVS Pathway.
112. The Delegate of Canada asked which criterion was used to differentiate emergency management from disaster management, and how resources should be prioritised when responding to a disaster situation.
113. Dr Percedo Abreu explained that a "disaster" was not just a situation causing comprehensive and far-reaching damage to infrastructure. There are also biological disasters, such as a disease outbreak that breaks the marketing chain.
114. She stressed the need to convince governments of the importance of including prevention as a priority in national disaster reduction platforms. Veterinary Services are required to protect animal health in order to safeguard the national economy, among other things.

115. The representative of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) said that, while disaster management policies were a matter for the State, it was important and necessary to build partnerships with private sector stakeholders and non-governmental organisations. He also spoke of WSPA projects in the areas of management systems, mapping and revision of risk profiles.
116. The Session Chairperson invited the Delegates of Canada, Chile, Cuba, Guatemala, Haiti and Peru to meet to prepare a draft recommendation for the technical item.

OIE policies on veterinary education

117. The Session Chairperson, Dr Mark Trotman, invited Dr Bernard Vallat, OIE Director General, to present OIE policies on veterinary education.
118. Dr Vallat began his presentation by stating that good quality Veterinary Services comprising both the public and private sectors, which could implement OIE standards, were recognised as global public goods and that there was an urgent need, particularly in the developing world, to enhance their competence.
119. Dr Vallat explained that quality veterinary education, together with effective veterinary statutory bodies, were the cornerstones of good governance of Veterinary Services, and that internationally harmonised quality veterinary education helped to improve animal health and welfare globally. Members had therefore mandated the OIE to take a global leadership role in establishing basic veterinary education requirements for effective national Veterinary Services.
120. Dr Vallat added that, in 2010, the OIE had established an *Ad Hoc* Group on Veterinary Education, chaired by Dr Ron DeHaven from AVMA, comprising veterinary deans, academics and other experts. Based on their work and supported by the conclusions of the 2nd Global Conference on Veterinary Education (Lyon 2011), the OIE had published Recommendations on the competencies of graduating veterinarians ('Day 1 graduates') in 2012. He said that these recommendations were relevant to all Members, regardless of their prevailing societal, economic and political circumstances.
121. Dr Vallat pointed out that, while each region and country had specific needs for veterinary education that must be respected, there should be a global minimum quality standard for the competencies of Day 1 graduates. He stated that nevertheless the OIE had no intention of accrediting veterinary education establishments or entering into competition with accreditation bodies.
122. Dr Vallat added that, based on the list of day 1 competencies, the OIE was developing recommendations on a core model veterinary curriculum relevant to the delivery of quality public and private sector components of national Veterinary Services for consideration by the World Assembly of Delegates at the 81st General Session (May 2013).
123. Dr Vallat said that, by finalising the procedures for twinning veterinary education establishments and veterinary statutory bodies, the OIE hoped to convince governments, regional and international organisations and donors to support such initiatives and thereby promote the quality of Veterinary Services globally.
124. To conclude, Dr Vallat announced that the 3rd Global Conference on Veterinary Education and Veterinary Statutory Bodies was scheduled for 3 to 5 December 2013 in Iguazú, Brazil.

Discussions

125. Dr Mark Trotman thanked the OIE Director General for his presentation on OIE policies on veterinary education.

126. The Representative of the University of the West Indies asked for details on the number of twinning projects that had been conducted since the first Global Conference on Veterinary Education.
127. Dr Vallat replied that no twinning programmes had yet been established because the procedures were being finalised and the OIE was hoping to convince governments, regional and international organisations and donors to support twinning initiatives and so promote quality Veterinary Services worldwide.
128. He explained that the OIE had produced a manual on twinning veterinary education establishments to guide interested institutions. He pointed out that one of the most sensitive factors in the entire process was the high cost, which was why the OIE was working to secure the necessary funds. For the time being, the OIE has found resources to finance four (4) twinning projects in other regions. The Americas Region is not on yet on the list but the OIE is hoping for positive results following the Global Conference on Veterinary Education in Brazil in December 2013.
129. The Representative of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Delegate of Jamaica and the Representative of Uruguay all asked the OIE for information on a standardised curriculum to improve the management of the different veterinarians moving throughout the Region. The Representative of Uruguay noted that, in his country, there was an official accreditation for private veterinarians issued by the Veterinary Services in collaboration with the state faculty of Veterinary Medicine for the accreditation process.
130. Dr Vallat urged the various regional organisations to establish common rules enabling veterinary professionals to adopt minimum general requirements for ensuring the mobility of veterinarians throughout the Region.
131. He said how important it was for regional organisations to help their Member Countries to adopt the list of accreditation authorities for veterinary education establishments and thereafter to accept only veterinary students who have graduated from establishments accredited by these accreditation authorities featuring on the list endorsed by countries in the region.
132. The Delegate of Brazil said that the issue was of great importance, as Brazil needed to regulate veterinary education because the country had more than 155 universities but most graduates worked in small animal veterinary practice, leading to a shortage in the livestock sector.
133. The Delegate of Costa Rica said that his country shared Brazil's concerns about the difference in the number of veterinary graduates working in small animal veterinary practice compared with those in the livestock sector. This is compounded by the fact that Costa Rica has two universities and very few professionals in the area.
134. The Delegate of Peru asked whether Veterinary Services should be prepared to meet the new challenges ahead, for instance by including new needs in curricula such as aquatic animals. This was endorsed by Dr Vidal, Vice-President of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, who asked for aquaculture health issues to be considered as optional subjects in the veterinary curriculum.
135. The Delegate of Panama stressed the need to involve key stakeholders such as schools and universities.
136. The Delegate of Mexico invited all those present at the Regional Conference to refer their ideas, doubts and questions to the Global Conference on Veterinary Education in Brazil in December 2013.

137. The Representative of the Buenos Aires training centre for Veterinary Services (CEBASEV) in Argentina described CEBASEV activities, stating that the training centre could provide Veterinary Services with capabilities to meet the minimum requirements requested.

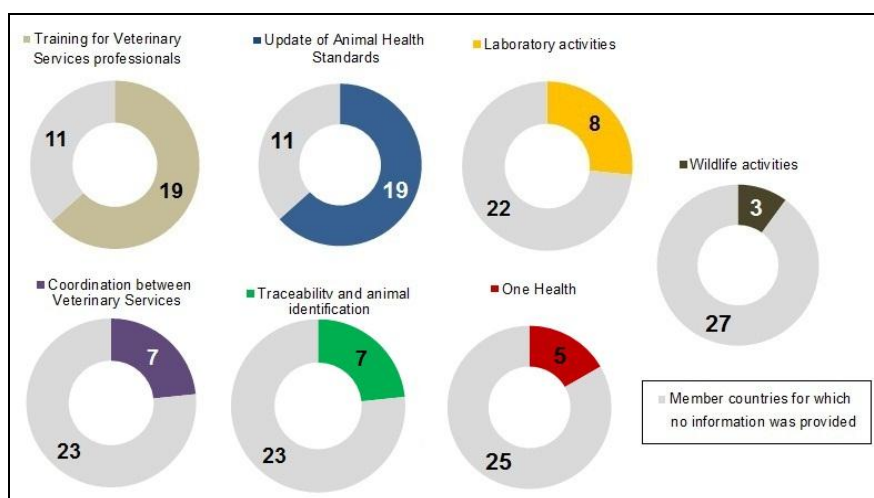
Animal health situation of Member Countries in the region during the first semester of 2012

138. The Session Chairperson, Dr Dr. Guilherme Henrique Figueiredo Marques, Delegate of Brazil, invited Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department to present the animal health situation of Member Countries in the region during the first semester of 2012.
139. This report is based on information contained in the national reports sent by Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas preparatory to the Regional Conference, as well as in immediate notifications and follow-up reports received in 2011 and until 19 November 2012 and official historical data contained in the World Animal Health Information Database (WAHID).
140. On the occasion of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, the OIE requested a report on the activities carried out by Veterinary Services and on the zoonosantary situation in 2012. The following 25 countries/territories submitted a report: Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, France (for its overseas territories: Guadeloupe, French Guyana, Martinique and Saint Pierre et Miquelon), Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States of America and Uruguay.

1. Activities of the Veterinary Services

141. Although Veterinary Services perform an important number of activities, emphasis was laid on the main lines of action for 2012.
142. From the thirty countries¹ that are from the Regional Commission for the Americas, of which 25 provided their reports for this Conference, the major activities have been grouped in seven lines of action (Figure 1)

Figure 1: Main lines of action notified by Veterinary Services for 2012, by number of countries, out of a total of 30 Member Countries of the Commission¹.



¹ France's four overseas territories are counted as one country

143. ***Training for Veterinary Service professionals*** was one of the most significant lines of action for Veterinary Services in 19 countries of the Region. Training courses are held at both national and international levels. These courses feature simulation exercises, rapid response to exotic diseases, training for reference laboratory officials, meetings and conferences on animal welfare, training in epidemiology and surveillance techniques, export certification, training for specific diseases such as FMD, CSF, HPAI, BT, BSE, rabies and aquatic animal diseases, among others. **Peru** and **Uruguay** also highlighted the accreditation of veterinarians for the performance of official activities.
144. At the same time, 19 countries referred to the adoption or updating of ***Animal Health standards*** as an important activity in 2012. Countries such as **Belize, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Jamaica** and the **United States** reported on various contingency plans implemented during that period. **Haiti** acknowledged the support given by Cuba to professional training and revising health standards.
145. The third main line of action, reported by eight countries of the Region, corresponds to ***Laboratory Activities***. Although many such activities were mentioned, they can be classified into: advanced training courses, laboratory twinning, reinforcing the diagnostic laboratory network, implementation of new techniques, and others. In addition, the NSB3 NB4-OIE Biosecurity Laboratory was inaugurated, for vesicular disease diagnosis in **Paraguay**, and in the **United States**, the “Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory” was recognised as OIE Reference Laboratory for FMD (the National Veterinary Services Laboratories, NVSL is currently the OIE Reference Laboratory for 13 diseases). Countries such as **Colombia** and the **United States** also reported the authorisation of new biological products.
146. Seven countries identified ***Coordination between Veterinary Services***, and highlighted their participation in meetings such as the OIE General Session, CARICOM, CaribVet, Mercosur Standing Veterinary Committee, COSALFA, PAEFA. **Belize, Colombia** and **Ecuador** emphasized the importance of coordination with neighbouring countries in matters of trade and the control of relevant diseases such as FMD.
147. Seven countries drew attention to work on ***Traceability and animal identification***. In this respect, the levels of activity vary greatly, ranging from territories such as **Guadeloupe** and **Martinique** that are in the process of updating their registries of animal owners, countries such as **Panama** that are about to adopt the standards allowing for such programme implementation, and more advanced countries like **Uruguay**, in which 100% of cattle have been identified. Animal identification systems vary as well, from group identification (**Costa Rica**) to individual identification with ear tags (**Jamaica**) or microchip with radio frequencies (**Uruguay** and **Peru** with a pilot project).
148. Under the ***One Health*** concept, five countries highlighted cooperation and training with Health Ministries or with international organizations such as the Panamerican Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) and Panaftosa. **Jamaica** reported the creation of Veterinary epidemiology veterinary public health and food safety (VEPHFS) unit to coordinate between veterinary epidemiologists and public health specialists in airports. **Mexico** referred to a cooperation agreement between National Health Safety and Agriculture and Food Quality Service [Servicio Nacional de Sanidad, Inocuidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria (SENASICA)] and Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risk [Comisión Federal para la Protección de Riesgos Sanitarios (COFREPRIS)] covering surveillance of zoonoses and food safety. The **United States** pointed out the establishment of the ***One Health Coordination Office***, tasked with coordinating work in the areas of animal and public health and the environment.

149. Finally, three countries drew attention to *Wildlife* activities, aimed at capturing sanitary situation of these populations and complying with OIE recommendations regarding disease notification and surveillance. **Argentina** emphasized the identification of breeding farms for non-traditional species, planning of wild bird captures, dissemination of trichinosis information to boar hunters, sampling schemes for captive birds and samplings of South America camelids. **Uruguay** organized the Steering Committee of the National Wildlife Disease Information Network [Red Nacional de información sobre enfermedades de la fauna silvestre (REDINFAS)] that brings together various Ministries, veterinary faculties, NGOs, zoos and natural reserves, as well as independent veterinarians. The country has a wild boar disease surveillance system, and is working on a surveillance system for sanitary events in its protected areas. **Peru** established a National Wildlife Epidemiology Surveillance Programme.

2. Animal population in the Americas

150. The American continent has an extensive territory, an area of 42,381,290 km² and a human population of 933,567,270, which yields a population density of 22.3 inhabitants/km² ⁽²⁾. It is characterized by a wide range of breeding and aquaculture activities, and is in fact one of the world's leading regions in terms of animal production, making the Americas one of the main providers of animal proteins to the world.
151. In 2011, the main terrestrial animal populations in the Americas were: birds (10.328.245.212), cattle (503.508.428), swine (161.502.765) and sheep/goats (122.259.464). It should be noted that a handful of countries account for the majority of these populations. Brazil and the United States³ represent 73% of the continent's poultry production. 73% of the region's cattle are bred in Brazil, the United States and Argentina. 82% of swine are bred in Brazil, the United States, Mexico and Canada. Finally, 66% of sheep/goats are bred in Brazil, Argentina, Mexico and Peru.
152. Reporting on farmed aquatic animal populations in the Americas has been irregular and has come from a small number of countries. In the period 2009-2011, a registry of wildlife species was initiated, but only Brazil and Canada have recorded data on extractive fishing on a regular basis during that period.
153. It should be noted that, in the period 2011-2012, the Animal Health Information Department has been endeavouring to establish, thanks to information provided by the Delegates, national animal populations, in order to update the historical data contained in WAHIS/WAHID. It is thus essential that countries systematically keep the OIE up-to-date on their production animal populations, including with regard to aquaculture and if possible wild fish capture, in their annual reports.

3. Simulation exercises

154. A simulation exercise allows countries to evaluate their disease control protocols and contingency plans, and to dispense training in conditions similar to those of an actual outbreak.
155. Member Countries may inform the OIE of planned simulation exercises, so that the organization can disseminate that information through the OIE-Info distribution list. Usually, simulation exercises involve a single country, but may encompass a region or group of countries that want to join forces to counter threats from specific diseases.
156. Of a total of 25 simulation exercises reported to the OIE in 2011, 10 (40%) were carried out in the Americas. In 2012 (as of 19 November 2012), a total of 16 simulation exercises were

⁽²⁾ Source: <http://www.populationdata.net/index2.php?option=continent&cid=2&nom=ameriques>

³ The United States of America reported the same figure for poultry production for the entire period 2005-2011

reported, of which 7 (44%) were carried out in the Americas.

157. The diseases covered in the simulation exercises carried out in the Americas in the period 2011–2012 were: FMD (7), classical swine fever and other swine diseases (4), avian influenza (2) and other avian diseases (1) and exotic animal diseases (3) (Table 1).

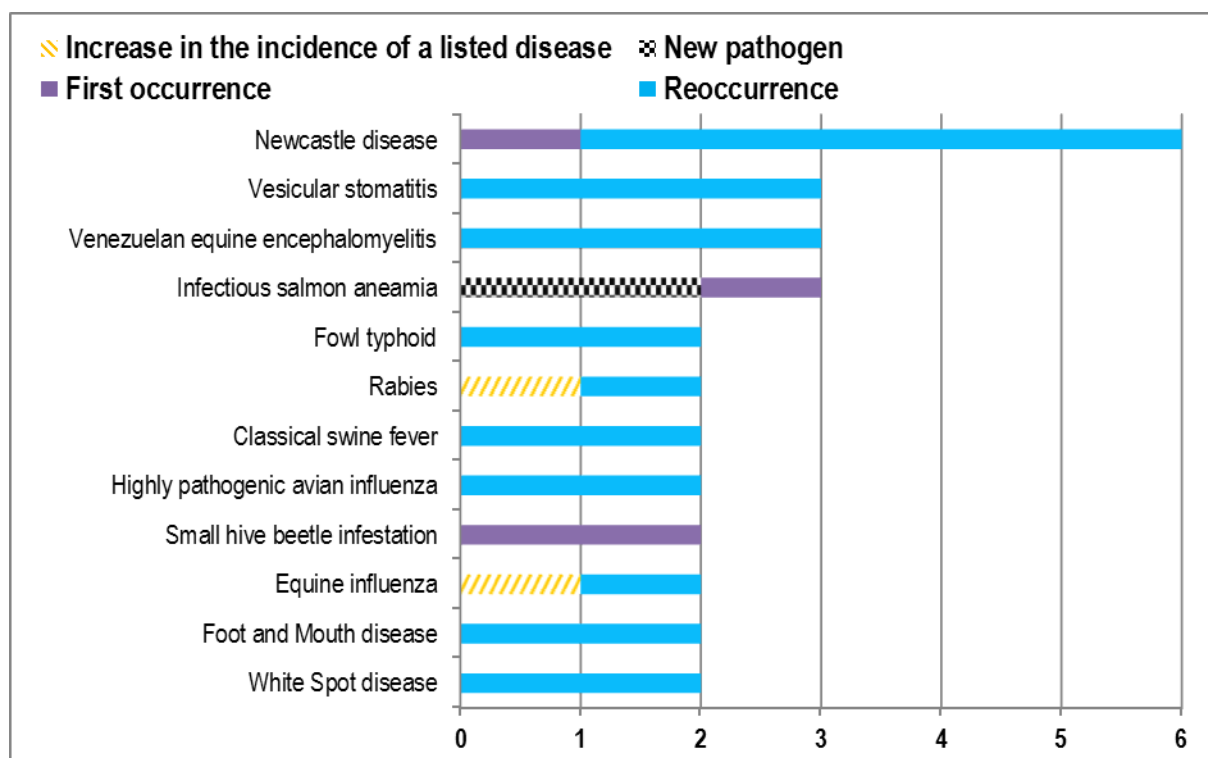
Table 1: Simulation exercises performed in the Americas between 2011 and 19 November 2012, reported to the OIE and disseminated through the OIE-Info list and dedicated page on the OIE web site

COUNTRY	DISEASE	DATES
Bolivia	Foot and Mouth disease	28 November to 2 December 2011
Brazil	Foot and Mouth disease	12 to 17 April 2012
Canada	Exotic animal diseases	3 to 4 October 2012
Canada	Foot and Mouth disease	11 to 13 June 2012
Canada	Exotic animal diseases	6 December 2011
Canada	Exotic animal diseases	7 September 2011
Canada	Foot and Mouth disease	16 and 17 February 2011
Colombia	Swine diseases	5 to 8 March 2012
Colombia	Swine diseases	15 to 18 August 2011
Colombia	Swine diseases	15 to 18 March 2011
United States of America	Foot and Mouth disease	26 to 29 June 2012
Honduras	Avian influenza	2 to 6 May 2011
Honduras	Avian diseases	5 to 9 November 2012
Mexico	Avian influenza	5 to 9 September 2011
Nicaragua	Classical swine fever	27 to 30 June 2011
Peru	Foot and Mouth disease	11 to 15 July 2011
Region of the Caribbean	Foot and Mouth disease	22 March 2012

4. Immediate notifications received from the Americas in 2012, by disease

158. Figure 2 sets out the main epidemiological events notified as immediate notification by the countries/territories of the Americas over the period 2011-19 November 2012. During that period, a total of 46 immediate notifications were submitted. The most notified diseases were: Newcastle disease with 6 notifications (both first occurrence and reoccurrence), 3 for vesicular stomatitis (reoccurrence), 3 for Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis and 3 for salmon infectious anaemia (notified as first occurrence and new pathogen) and 2 for FMD.

Figure 2: Number of events reported by the countries of the Americas, by disease, in 2011 and 2012 (up to 19 November 2012)



159. Diseases that were reported only once were not included in the previous figure. The following 15 diseases were notified only once: enzootic abortion of ewes, caprine arthritis/encephalitis, anthrax, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, rabbit haemorrhagic disease, transmissible gastroenteritis, infection with *Bonamia exitiosa*, highly pathogenic avian influenza, avian infectious laryngotracheitis, leishmaniosis, contagious equine metritis, new world screwworm, glanders, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome and epizootic ulcerative syndrome.

160. Amongst the events notified, 33 were resolved, in one case the disease was declared endemic. Three diseases (equine influenza, new world screwworm and rabies) were reported with an increased incidence. To date, a total of 13 events remain unresolved.

5. Six-monthly reports

161. As of 19 November 2012, a total of 34 six-monthly reports (terrestrial and aquatic) were sent to the OIE, covering the first semester of 2012, of which 20 countries/territories entered their information directly via the WAHIS interface, and only one submitted a paper report in Word format.

162. 100 % of the countries/territories submitted information for the semester on terrestrial animals, and 57% on aquatic animals (Table 2).

Table 2: First six-monthly reports for 2012, by type of submission and reports submitted (aquatic and/or terrestrial)

COUNTRY		TYPE OF SUBMISSION	SIX-MONTHLY REPORT	
			TERRESTRIAL	AQUATIC
1	Argentina	WAHIS	Yes	Yes
2	Belize	WAHIS	Yes	
3	Bolivia	WAHIS	Yes	
4	Canada	WAHIS	Yes	Yes
5	Chile	WAHIS	Yes	Yes
6	Colombia	WAHIS	Yes	Yes
7	Costa Rica	WAHIS	Yes	Yes
8	Cuba	PAPER	Yes	Yes
9	Ecuador	WAHIS	Yes	Yes
10	Guadeloupe (France)	WAHIS	Yes	Yes
11	Guatemala	WAHIS	Yes	Yes
12	French Guyana (France)	WAHIS	Yes	Yes
13	Martinique (France)	WAHIS	Yes	No information
14	Mexico	WAHIS	Yes	Yes
15	Nicaragua	WAHIS	Yes	Yes
16	Panama	WAHIS	Yes	
17	Paraguay	WAHIS	Yes	
18	Peru	WAHIS	Yes	Yes
19	Surinam	WAHIS	Yes	
20	United States of America	WAHIS	Yes	Yes
21	Uruguay	WAHIS	Yes	No information

Situation of the selected OIE listed diseases for the region

1. Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)

163. FMD was introduced into the Americas in the 19th century, and was first observed in North and South America in 1870. In the course of the 20th century, the disease spread to several countries of the continent; however, it has never been reported in Belize, Cayman Islands, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique (France), Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.
164. Of FMD's seven serotypes (A, O, C, SAT1, SAT2, SAT3 and Asia1), only serotypes O, A and C have been identified in the Americas. In August 2004, Brazil notified serotype C in the State of Amazonas, and since then no further outbreaks involving serotype C have been reported in the region.
165. According to Resolution No. 14 of the 80th General Session of the OIE, held in May 2012, and to the provisions of Chapter 8.5 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, the list of Member Countries of the Americas having an OIE-recognized FMD status is set forth in Table 3.

Table 3: FMD Status in 2012, as recognized by the OIE

FMD free where vaccination is not practised	FMD free where vaccination is practised	FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised	FMD free zone where vaccination is practised
Belize	Uruguay	Argentina ⁴	Argentina ⁵
Canada		Bolivia ⁶	Bolivia ⁷
Chile		Brazil ⁸	Brazil ⁹
Costa Rica		Colombia ¹⁰	Colombia ¹¹
Cuba		Peru ¹²	
El Salvador			
United States of America			
Guatemala			
Guyana			
Haiti			
Honduras			
Mexico			
Nicaragua			
Panama			
Dominican Republic			

166. During the period 2011-2012, the disease occurred in **Ecuador** and **Venezuela**. . The last outbreak in Ecuador occurred in August 2011, while outbreaks continue to be notified through six-monthly reports by Venezuela.

167. In September and December 2011, **Paraguay** notified two outbreaks in the Department of San Pedro; the disease had not been reported since July 2003. The strain involved corresponded to serotype O, with 28 cases in cattle. All susceptible animals – 982 head of cattle and 5 pigs – were culled. A total of 13,248,869 head of cattle and 11,420 buffalo were vaccinated in the first semester of 2012. The FMD programme comprises a standing compensation fund, for cases of stamping out or early slaughter. Following the end of the last outbreak on 9 January 2012, no further outbreaks have occurred. It should be noted that, following the decision of the OIE Scientific Commission, the status of the FMD-free zone where vaccination is practised, granted by Resolution XIV of the 79th OIE General Session in May 2011, was suspended as of 5 December 2011.

168. In **Ecuador** the disease appeared to be endemic; in 2011, serotype O was present in five different provinces and the last episode occurred in El Oro in August 2011. However, the country reinforced its veterinary structures (149 veterinarians and livestock technicians and 1,105 vaccinators devoted exclusively to the FMD programme in 2012), performed continuous biannual vaccination with large coverage (97% of the cattle population in 2011), carried out differentiated targeted surveillance strategies based on risk, zoning and control of animal movements. As a result, no new FMD outbreaks occurred in the first semester 2012.

⁴ Zone designated by the Delegate of Argentina

⁵ Two separate zones designated by the Delegate of Argentina

⁶ Zone in the Macro-region of the Altiplano

⁷ Zone of Chiquitania and zone adjacent to the east of Chiquitania

⁸ State of Santa Catarina

⁹ The following zones: zone covering the territory of State of Rio Grande do Sul, zone consisting of State of Rondônia, State of Acre along with two adjacent municipalities of State of Amazonas and an extension of this zone into the territory of State of Amazonas, zone consisting of the middle southern part of State of Pará, States of Espírito Santo, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, Sergipe, Distrito Federal, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Paraná, São Paulo, parts of State of Bahia, parts of State of Tocantins and the zone in State of Mato Grosso do Sul, zone in State of Mato Grosso do Sul and zone located in States of Bahia and Tocantins.

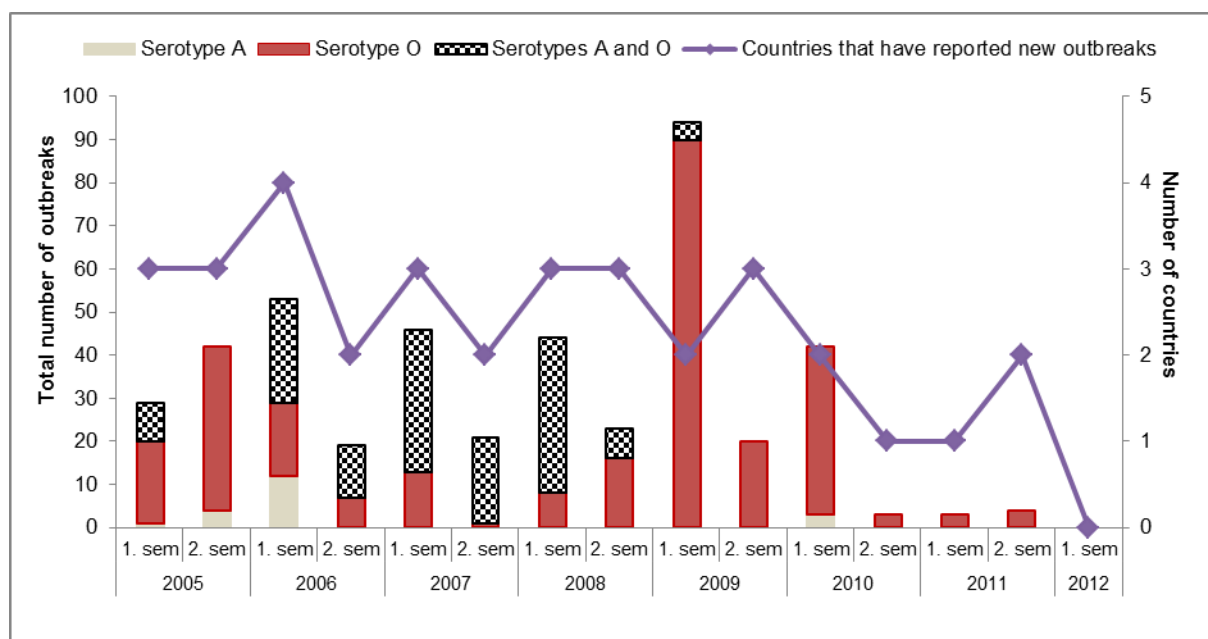
¹⁰ Two zones designated by the Delegate of Colombia (Area I - Northwest region of Choco Department, Area II-Archipelago de San Andres and Providencia)

¹¹ One zone consisting of five merged zones designated by the Delegate of Colombia

¹² One zone consisting of two merged zones as designated by the Delegate of Peru

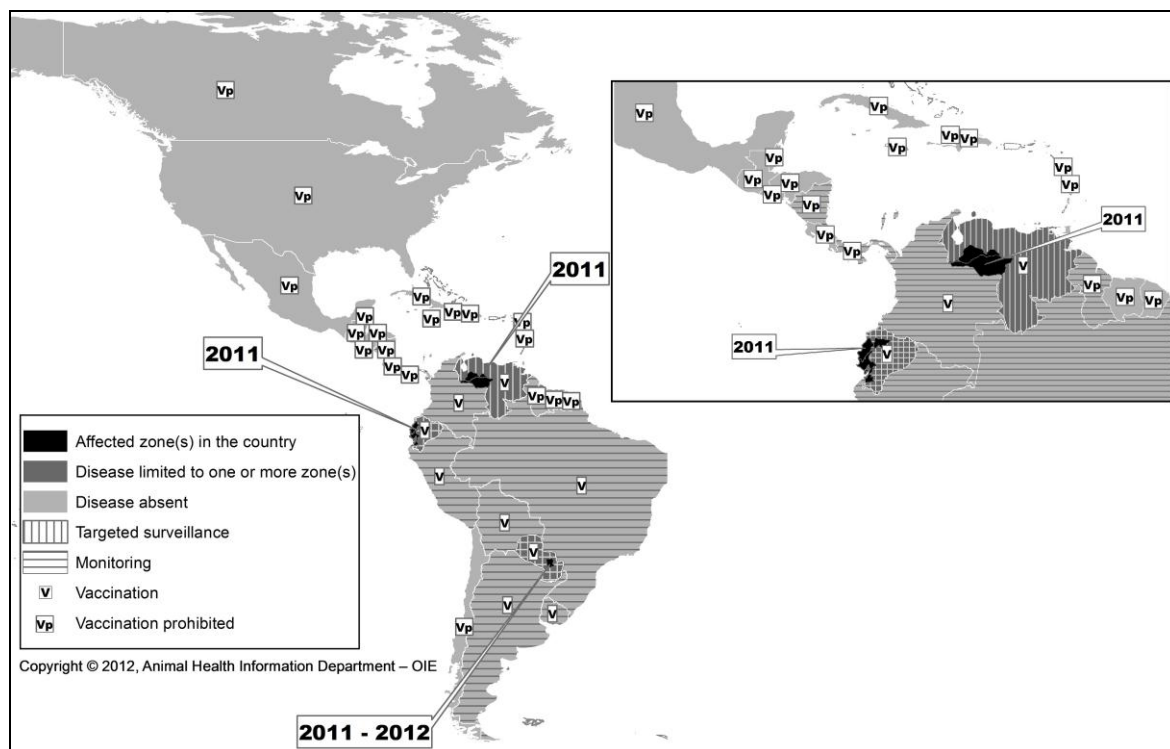
169. In 2011, **Venezuela** reported two outbreaks of FMD, serotypes O and A, affecting 103 head of cattle in the provinces of Apure and Barinas. To date, no six-monthly reports were submitted by this country for the first semester 2012 to determine its FMD situation.
170. **Colombia** has a national FMD programme, initiated in the 1970s, thanks to which no new outbreaks have occurred since 2009. The country has various zones recognized as FMD-free, and performs stringent border controls in the framework of bilateral conventions with **Brazil, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela**.
171. In **Bolivia**, no new outbreaks have been notified since March 2007, and the country has a national FMD eradication programme (PRONEFA), with a vaccinal coverage of 80% and two FMD-free zones where vaccination is not practised. In the recent period, a transversal sero-epidemiological survey has been set up covering the FMD-free zone where vaccination is not practised, and an application to achieve recognition of the Bolivian Chaco as FMD-free where vaccination is practised has been drawn up.
172. In 2011, the zone known as "Cordón Fronterizo", in northern **Argentina**, recovered its status as an "FMD-free zone where vaccination is practised". Following an outbreak of FMD in Paraguay, Argentina declared a sanitary alert and performed targeted surveillance actions, such as serological sampling to detect viral activity in the six provinces that border on Paraguay. A targeted survey was also performed, consisting in taking samples from a specific number of animals from each herd leaving the Cordón Fronterizo, to determine vaccinal immunity in calves, and to estimate immunity conferred by vaccination. Since April 2006, no FMD outbreaks have been notified by Argentina.
173. Since 2004 no new outbreaks have occurred in **Peru**, which has an annual sampling programme to certify its FMD-free status and the absence of viral activity. In addition, serological sampling is performed in vaccinated cattle in Tumbes, part of Piura and the province of San Ignacio in Cajamarca in order to assess immunity. From April to June 2012, a total of 788 samples were collected.
174. In **Uruguay**, where the last outbreak occurred in August 2001, there is an FMD epidemiosurveillance programme that has two main components: 1) attention to suspected cases and 2) sero-epidemiological surveys to detect viral circulation and determine immune response in cattle to the administration of imported vaccines. Each year epidemiological surveys are carried out in February (surveys of acquired immunity, absence of viral activity in cattle) and from June to November (samples from a panel of cattle and sheep) to confirm the absence of FMD viral circulation during the last 12 months, pursuant to Chapter 8.5 of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. In the survey carried out between August and November 2011, aimed at identifying viral circulation, 530 establishments were inspected, and 12,839 samples were taken from cattle and 18,989 from sheep, all negative for FMD virus antibodies. In February 2012, a sero-epidemiological survey was performed in cattle to determine levels of protection from serotypes O and A and to establish that at least 99% of all farms with cattle in Uruguay present no viral activity, with a 95% confidence margin; 290 establishments and 7,497 head of cattle were sampled. Vaccination periods are set by the General Directorate for Livestock Services (DGSG), which stipulated that 13,342,476 doses were to be administered over the period February-May 2012.
175. Starting from 2005, **Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Venezuela** are the countries that have reported outbreaks in one or more years. A semester-by-semester analysis reveals that the amount of new FMD outbreaks has decreased sharply in South America since 2010, basically due to the control measures taken by Ecuador in recent years, as explained above. We can also observe that the serotypes involved were A and O, reports of the latter being confined to the last three semesters (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Temporal distribution of FMD outbreaks and total number of affected countries, by serotype and semester, by serotype and semester



176. Moreover, the FMD control and eradication measures taken by the various countries differ fundamentally with respect to the declaration of free zones where vaccination is or is not practised, and the strategies laid out in programmes of epidemiosurveillance and monitoring. Figure 4 shows that part of Central America and all of South America have surveillance strategies for FMD, which corresponds to a strategy based on the risk of FMD introduction. Thus, vaccination is performed in much of South America, which serves to prevent the disease, since the major challenge for the countries of the region is to increase the number of FMD-free zones or countries where vaccination is not practised. Finally, the nation-wide prohibition of vaccination mainly applies to Central and North America, since **Chile, Guyana, French Guyana** and **Surinam** are the only South American countries where there is no FMD vaccination.
177. Five FMD-free countries where vaccination is not practised, in their reports to this Conference, referred to FMD-related activities in 2012. **Cuba** is continuing to reinforce control measures at international points of entry, as well as risk analysis prior to authorization to import animals and animal products. **El Salvador** is pursuing its epidemiosurveillance of vesicular stomatitis, due to its similarity to FMD, and samples are sent to the Vesicular Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (LADIVES) in the Republic of Panama. **Guyana** reported the establishment of an FMD contingency plan, samples taken from 875 animals (all negative), the creation of a new monitoring and control point (Mabura Hill) and, with assistance from PAHO, the FMD Public Awareness Programme was extended to cover farmers, citizens and foreign nationals. In **Canada**, the North American Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine Bank (NAFMDVB) working group met in August 2012 in order to review its guidelines. Finally, in June 2012 the **United States** and **Canada** reported on FMD simulation exercises.

Figure 4: FMD distribution in the Americas between 2011 and 2012, vaccination strategies, targeted surveillance and monitoring when relevant



178. In conclusion, on the basis of the latest outbreaks presented, it is serotype O that remains present in the region. At the same time, the Americas have experienced a clear decrease in FMD outbreaks over the last two years. A noteworthy effort has been made by some countries to eradicate the disease and not practise vaccination, and by others to extend FMD-free zones where vaccination is not practised, a strategy which should make it possible for the region to eradicate the disease in the near future.

2. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

179. Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) is caused by a virus of the family *Orthomyxoviridae*, genus *Influenza virus A*. To date, all highly pathogenic strains in birds have corresponded to virus A, subtypes H5 and H7. The virus is highly contagious, and one can reasonably assume that all bird species are susceptible to infection. The virus infects mainly birds, but some strains may provoke clinical signs in other species such as equines, minks, cats, dogs, herons and marine mammals. Aquatic and terrestrial birds seem to constitute the natural reservoirs for influenza virus A. There is no treatment for the disease. Human beings may be affected, although the species barrier for transmission appears to be high. However, when infections in humans occur, the outcome is often fatal.

180. In June 2012, **Mexico** reported the reoccurrence of HPAI subtype H7N3 in the State of Jalisco; the last occurrence had been in June 1995, when 15,000 birds were destroyed. Following the notification, the National Agrofood Health, Safety and Quality Service (Servicio Nacional de Sanidad, Inocuidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria - SENASICA) initiated an epidemiological investigation in the focal, perifocal and buffer zones, which encompass an area of 31,795km², and reinforced surveillance throughout the country; to date, a total of 537 production units have been sampled. A total of 64,498 samples were taken, and subtype H7N3 virus was isolated from 45 samples, of which 44 were from commercial birds in poultry farms, and one from a wild bird. Losses amounted to 11,355,005 birds (1,103,411 disease fatalities and 10,251,594 birds destroyed). The planned depopulation actions are still underway. Control measures regarding the movement of birds, their products and sub products are still in force in the quarantine area.

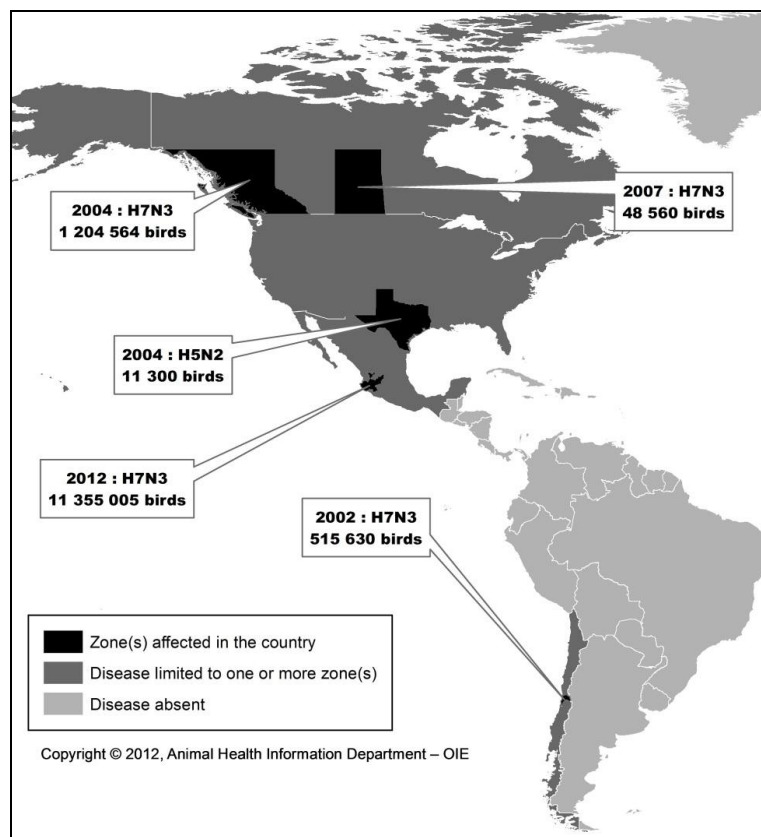
181. In addition to the sampling performed in the State of Jalisco, Mexico has kept up nationwide surveillance in poultry and backyard farms. A total of 88,038 samples have been analysed in official laboratories, all negative. The control measures taken included official temporary vaccination of birds at risk. By 14 September 2012, 125.8 million doses were administered, including revaccination of flocks. Vaccination is supervised by the sanitary authorities, and distribution of vaccines is subject to official authorisation by SENASICA. The intention is to suspend vaccination within 60 to 90 days, in order that Mexico may rapidly recover its HPAI-free status. To date, 42 outbreaks have been considered resolved.
182. According to the National Poultry Farmers' Union of Mexico [(Unión Nacional de Avicultores de Mexico (UNA)¹³], losses due to the disease are estimated to be US\$860 million and over 7,688 jobs lost.
183. In the Americas and over the last decade, the disease has been notified in **Chile** (2002), the **United States** (2004) and **Canada** (2004 and 2007).
184. In **Chile**, two outbreaks of HPAI, subtype H7N3, were notified in San Antonio, region of Valparaíso, in the centre of the country. They occurred between 23 May and 1 June 2002, in two farms belonging to the same company and located four kilometres apart. In both outbreaks, the measures taken were stamping-out, followed by cleaning, disinfection and sanitisation of the sectors concerned. The disease did not spread beyond the infected zone. Losses amounted to 515.630 birds and, according to data provided by the Agriculture and Livestock Service [Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero (SAG)] public expenditure on emergency measures, international and personal consultancy amounted to US\$ 683,000. As far as the private sector is concerned, direct costs, due to the elimination of birds and their products and to preventive and control measures, amounted to US\$ 5,600,000, and indirect costs have been estimated at US\$ 16,335,000, due to lower export volumes and their impact on domestic prices, warehousing and re-export costs, etc¹⁴.
185. In the **United States**, HPAI serotype H5N2 was detected in a non-commercial farm and in two live bird markets in the county of Gonzalez, Texas, in February 2004. The farm had 9000 birds, all of which were destroyed. Two live bird markets in Houston that received birds from the infected farm were analysed and found positive for the influenza virus. In addition to these two markets, three neighbouring markets were depopulated and a total of 2300 birds were destroyed. The outbreak thus brought about a total loss of 11,300 birds.
186. At present, the United States has a surveillance programme covering the following populations: large-volume commercial poultry industry; small-volume, high-value commercial poultry industry and the live-bird marketing system. All samples are sent to the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) for virus isolation, confirmation, typing and pathogenicity testing. In 2011, over 2,094,597 tests were performed, and no subtypes H5 or H7 were isolated; only low-pathogenic strains were detected [subtypes H3N1 (8 samples), H3N8 (2 samples from New Jersey), and one subtype H4 isolated in Pennsylvania]. In 2012, over 947,948 tests were performed by the month of July, all negative.

¹³ Unión Nacional de Avicultores, UNA : http://www.una.org.mx/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=281:el-brote-de-influenza-aviar-h7n3-ha-dejado-danos-a-la-industria-avicola-por-8617-millones-de-pesos

¹⁴ Influenza aviar en Chile una sinopsis: http://www2.sag.gob.cl/Pecuaria/bvo/BVO_10_II_semestre_2009/PDF_articulos/IA_2002_IICA-BM.pdf

187. In **Canada**, in Fraser Valley, British Columbia, HPAI subtype H7N3 was reported in February 2004 in a broiler breeder farm composed of two units – one with 52-week-old and one with 24-week-old chickens – with approximately 9000 birds each. All chickens were destroyed and the carcasses burnt, and surveillance was carried out within a radius of five kilometres around the outbreak area. An epidemiological watch enabled detection of a second outbreak on 12 March 2004, in a breeder farm consisting of four units (24,000 birds); only one unit was infected, and surveillance was performed within a ten-kilometre radius. Subsequently, three further outbreaks occurred, also in breeder farms, affecting 98,000 birds. In order to avoid viral dissemination, it was decided to destroy flocks within a five-kilometre radius ("*high-risk area*"), and a ten-kilometre radius was chosen to delineate a "*surveillance area*". The estimated number of birds destroyed as a result of this event is 1,204,564 (including both commercial and backyard farms) and 16,000,000 birds, located in the high-risk area, were sent to early slaughter. Subsequently, in September 2007, the virus reappeared in the province of Saskatchewan (on the **United States** border), with 540 cases in domestic birds, all fatal, and 48,560 birds destroyed. Introduction was most likely due to a low-pathogenic H7N3 virus from wild aquatic birds. On 17 April 2008, after the three months following cleaning and disinfection of the infected areas, Canada declared itself free of notifiable HPAI.
188. The Canadian Notifiable Avian Influenza Surveillance System (CanNAISS) was created in 2008 in order to certify absence of notifiable avian influenza in Canadian poultry, as per OIE standards. This surveillance system has demonstrated its adaptability to different situations, and at present, on the basis of established prevalence criteria, the disease is absent from Canadian poultry.
189. Figure 5 contains a summary of occurrences of HPAI, subtypes H7N3 and H5N2, in the Americas over the last ten years, and losses of birds due to disease or stamping out for each outbreak, based on reports received by the OIE.

Figure 5: HPAI-affected zones in the Americas and associated bird losses, for the period 2002-2012



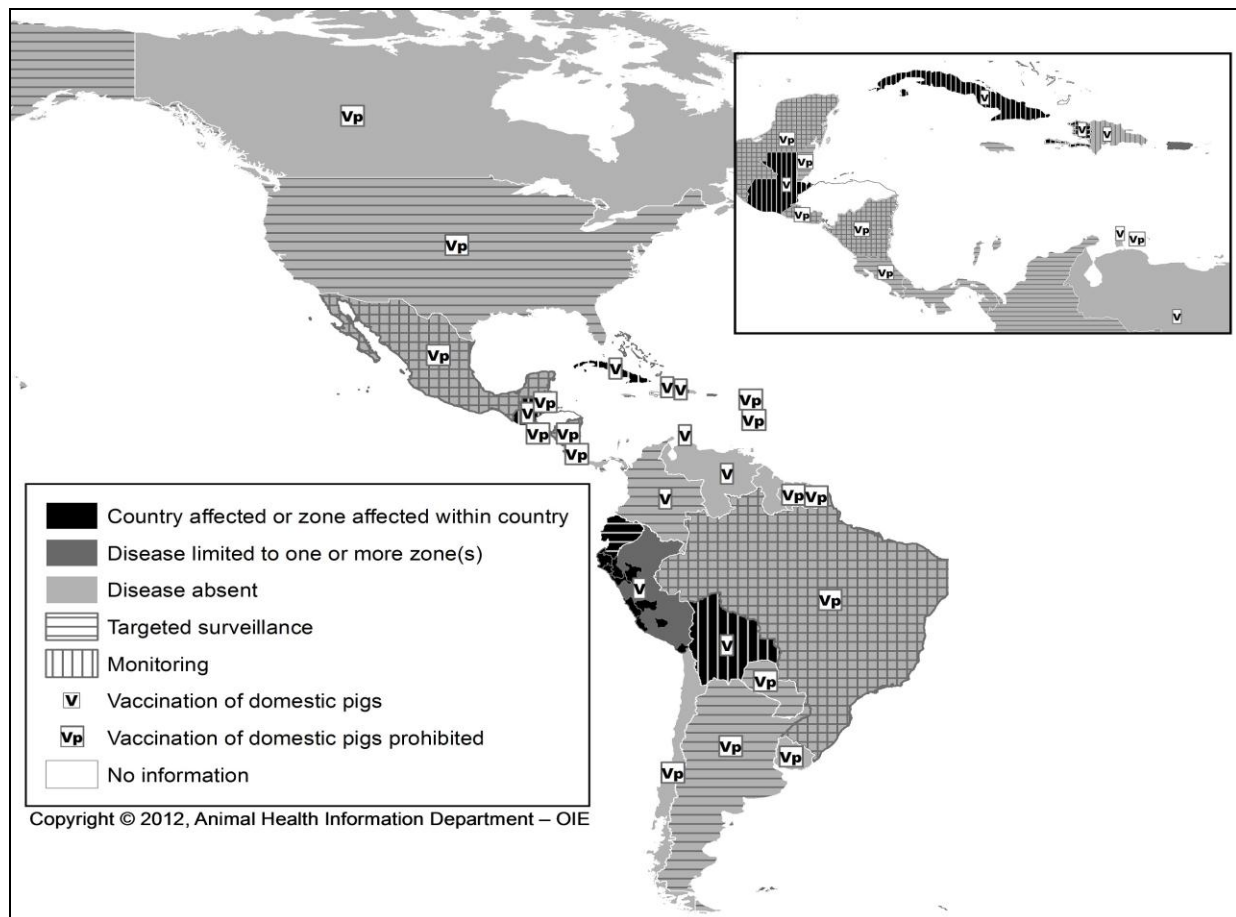
190. As a result of the outbreaks in Mexico, **El Salvador** established a zoosanitary alert in July 2012 and **Belize** implemented avian influenza contingency plans, in cooperation with OIRSA.
191. Several countries referred to their national HPAI prevention programmes, based on routine/targeted surveillance and/or monitoring. These measures involve different categories of poultry, depending on the country, such as: industrial farms, family farms – backyard and ornamental – wild birds, fighting birds and imported live birds. The countries that mentioned such national programmes were: **Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, France (Guadeloupe, French Guyana and Martinique), Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago** and **Uruguay**.
192. Amongst the main difficulties countries faced in implementing their programmes, **Guyana** mentioned shortcomings in their diagnostic laboratories and problems in sending samples to other countries, in particular the conditions set by airlines. **Ecuador** performs annual serological samplings, risk reporting and surveillance at farm and live birds markets, but the absence of database of their locations of live bird markets and the big number of poultry farms constitutes the main obstacle to including them in its programme.
193. **Colombia** highlighted support from the World Bank, which allocated US\$500,000 to the National Targeted Surveillance Programme, which should help reinforce surveillance and disease diagnosis in the country.
194. The high losses due to HPAI justify continued implementation of biosecurity measures in commercial establishments and control measures for other categories of birds. The efforts made by countries to defend their disease-free status are worthy of note. The risk of viral circulation in migratory birds means that surveillance and monitoring must be reinforced for those species, especially in countries that have yet to carry out such measures.

3. Classical Swine Fever (CSF)

195. Classical swine fever (CSF) is caused by a virus of the family *Flaviviridae*, genus *Pestivirus*. The virus is highly contagious, and, although transmission is mainly oral and or nasal, feeding pigs with residues of contaminated and insufficiently cooked food is a common pathway for viral introduction into CSF-free countries. The disease can bring significant economic losses, since there is no treatment available, and affected pigs must be culled and their carcasses buried or incinerated.
196. Pig farming is a very important activity in the Americas, where three of the world's biggest producers are located: the **United States, Brazil** and **Canada**. CSF has occurred in many countries of the region and, although its incidence has declined considerably, the countries in which the disease is absent continue to carry out surveillance and preventive measures, as can be seen in Figure 6.
197. **Guatemala** reported to the OIE the reoccurrence of CSF in May 2012, five months after the end of the previous event (14/12/2011). It involved nine outbreaks in the departments of Guatemala, Suchitepéquez, Sacatepéquez and Chiquimula, with an apparent morbidity of 19% and mortality rate of 6%. Vaccination (with a modified live vaccine in cell cultures) was performed within a radius of three kilometres, on populations located mainly in backyard farms.
198. Countries where CSF is endemic submitted information in their six-monthly reports, in 2012 these were **Bolivia** (7 outbreaks), **Cuba** (42 outbreaks), **Ecuador** (46 outbreaks) and **Peru** (31 outbreaks). **Haiti**, through its report to this Conference, informed that 1186 animals were sampled, and 56 were positive.

199. The countries where CSF is present implement control strategies. **Guatemala** has had a control and eradication programme since 2004; 65% of the farms covered are considered semi-commercial and 35% are backyard. The programme includes vaccination, and vaccinated pigs are identified thanks to ear tags. **Cuba** also has a national eradication programme based on a vaccination plan; outbreaks in Cuba are normally related to biosecurity concerns.
200. **Ecuador** has a national programme based on outbreak control, surveillance, and diagnosis and community education. Thanks to reinforced surveillance, suspected cases of CSF were given greater attention in 2010-2012, and it is hoped that an eradication programme will be approved in 2013. In **Haiti**, work is planned on characterizing current disease patterns and on increasing the immunisation rate. Since 2010, **Peru** has a control/eradication programme for CSF. In this country, together with **Bolivia**, vaccination is part of the measures to control this disease. The distribution of CSF in 2011 and 2012, as well as the control and preventive measures indicated by the countries, can be seen in Figure 6.

Figure 6: CSF distribution in the Americas between 2011 and 2012, vaccination strategy, targeted surveillance and monitoring when relevant



201. Other countries, in which the disease is absent, have epidemiological surveillance and monitoring programmes in force. In **Belize**, surveillance was reinforced in the period in question, and samples collected in the course of routine and targeted surveillance tested negative to antigens with ELISA. In view of recent CSF notifications from **Guatemala**, CSF contingency plans were reviewed. **Costa Rica** has a Swine Health Programme focussed on CSF, based on routine surveillance, compulsory reporting, targeted surveillance and biannual samplings in commercial and backyard farms. Recently, targeted surveillance was supplemented by tonsil samplings in slaughterhouses and serological surveillance in risk zones.

202. **Colombia** has a national control programme based on zoning; it includes vaccination in endemic zones and movement control. **El Salvador** developed a CSF emergency plan, trained professionals in CSF epidemiosurveillance and held coordination meetings with Belize, Panama and the Dominican Republic. The last outbreaks reported by El Salvador were in 2008. The country continues to take serological samples, which confirm its CSF-free status.
203. In the **United States**, the surveillance system is designed to detect and contain rapidly any possible CSF occurrence. The system gathers data on populations selected on the basis of various risk factors (such as geographical location, potential exposure of feral swine or the use of residues for food). All samples taken in 2011 and 2012, in cases where CSF could have been suspected, turned out negative.
204. A project, financed by the FAO, to detect the influenza virus in **Jamaica** and the Caribbean, includes a serological survey for other OIE listed diseases, such as CSF.
205. In **Mexico**, following an eradication campaign having started in the 1990s, the last outbreaks of CSF occurred in 2009. Post-eradication surveillance was reinforced in the last two years through more rapid and sensitive diagnostic techniques for the identification of low virulence CSF strains. Statistically representative samplings are taken, with over 25,000 samples this year, all negative. In **Nicaragua**, following the implementation of a CSF eradication programme, the country declared being free of the disease since May 2011. The OIE was not made aware about this self-declaration.
206. **Panama** has a national CSF programme, with samplings in farms (commercial and backyard) and in slaughterhouses. All samples processed in the first semester of 2012 were negative. Currently, a swine census and a transport registry are under preparation. **Paraguay** has a control programme, and a voluntary registry of participating farms.
207. The CSF trend in the Americas has been favourable, as the number of countries in which the disease was historically endemic has decreased. In several countries where the disease is still present, vaccination is one of the eradication measure applied, in order to reduce losses due the CSF, although it does not eliminate the infection.

4. Bovine Tuberculosis (TB)

208. Bovine tuberculosis (TB) is a chronic bacterial disease, in animals and man, caused by *Mycobacterium bovis*. In many countries, bovine tuberculosis is a major infectious disease in cattle, other domestic animals and some wildlife populations. Transmission to man represents a public health concern. A large majority of the veterinary services in the Americas maintain official TB prevention, control or eradication programmes, as the disease is endemic to most countries of the region.
209. The countries in which the disease was not present in the first semester of 2012 are **Barbados**, the **French territories**, **Jamaica**, **Peru**, **Panama** and **Surinam**. The French overseas territories of **Guadeloupe** and **French Guyana**, where the disease has never been reported, have a slaughterhouse surveillance programme. In **Martinique**, where the disease has been absent since 1999, a programme of serological screening in slaughterhouses, as well as tuberculation in dairy farms, was initiated in 2001. In **Saint Pierre and Miquelon**, locally consumed animals come from Canada, from TB free farms.
210. Various TB control and eradication programmes have been implemented in the Americas. On the basis of the reports submitted for this Conference, Table 4 sets out some achievements in 2012, in terms of prevalence or zones where TB is deemed to be eradicated. It also reflects the various levels of surveillance and main control measures: elimination of positive animals, control of movement of affected animals and certification of disease-free properties. It also specifies whether the programmes are voluntary or compulsory.

Table 4: Achievements in bovine tuberculosis in the Americas in 2012

COUNTRY	START OF THE PROGRAMME	ACHIEVEMENTS		CONTROL ACTIONS				
		PREVALENCE	FREE ZONES	SURVEILLANCE	Sp ¹⁵	CERTIFICATION ¹⁶	MOVEMENT CONTROL	PROGRAMME : VOLUNTARY OR MANDATORY
Argentina	1999 mandatory in 2012	0.6% in slaughterhouses	Provinces of Tierra del Fuego, Antarctica and South Atlantic Islands	Dairy and genetic farms. Cold storage rooms and slaughterhouses.	Yes	Yes	Yes	M in dairy and genetic farms.
Brazil	2001/ 2004		None	Dairy and beef farms, slaughterhouses and genetic farms	Yes	Yes	Yes	V
Colombia	1985	<1%	Dairy basin of Quindío Department and Municipality of Cajamarca	Slaughterhouses	Yes	Yes	Yes	V
Costa Rica	1950/ 1978/ 1987/ 2008	0.12% (average of reactors in 5 years)	None. There is a zone, on the border with Panama, in project to declared free	Dairy and beef farms and slaughterhouses	Yes	Yes	Yes	M
Cuba	1964	<0.5%	168 districts	Dairy farms and slaughterhouses	Yes	Yes	Yes	M
Chile	1982 mandatory in 2011	1% in slaughterhouses	None	Dairy farms and slaughterhouses	Yes	Yes	Yes	M
Ecuador	2011	4% Sierra 1% Costa 0.5% on the rest of the country	None	Slaughterhouses	Yes	Yes	Yes	V
El Salvador	1969	4.5%	Anamoros province	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	V
Guatemala	1984	1.18%	None	Dairy farms, slaughterhouses and genetic farms.	Yes	Yes	No	V
Mexico	1995	<0.5%	83.12% of the territory in eradication process	100% farms	Yes	Yes	Yes	M
Nicaragua	2009	0.24%	Yes	Dairy farms and slaughterhouses	Yes	Yes	Yes	M
Panama	1997	7.03% in animals and 17.46% in flocks	Disease located only in one province in the country. Additionally, Bocas del Toro is free of the disease	Dairy farms, slaughterhouses, sentinel farms and wildlife	Yes	Yes	Yes	M
Paraguay	1978/ 1997		District J. Eulogio Estigarribia, Department of Caaguazú	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	V
Peru	2000	0.1% in the farms under control	26 provinces in departments of Arequipa, Cusco, Ica, Moquegua, Puno y Tacna.	Dairy farms	Yes	Yes	Yes	M
United States of America	1917	0.001%	48 States, one zone and 2 territories, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands (accredited free) One State and one Zone (modified accredited advanced) One zone (modified accredited)	Slaughterhouses Live animal testing for: •Interstate movement purposes •Area surveillance •Accredited herd status •Epidemiological investigations •Show/exhibition purposes •Milk ordinances/laws	Total and partial	Yes	Yes	M
Uruguay	1965/ 1998/ 2011	0.48% in dairy farms	None	Dairy farms and slaughterhouses	Yes	Yes	Yes	M

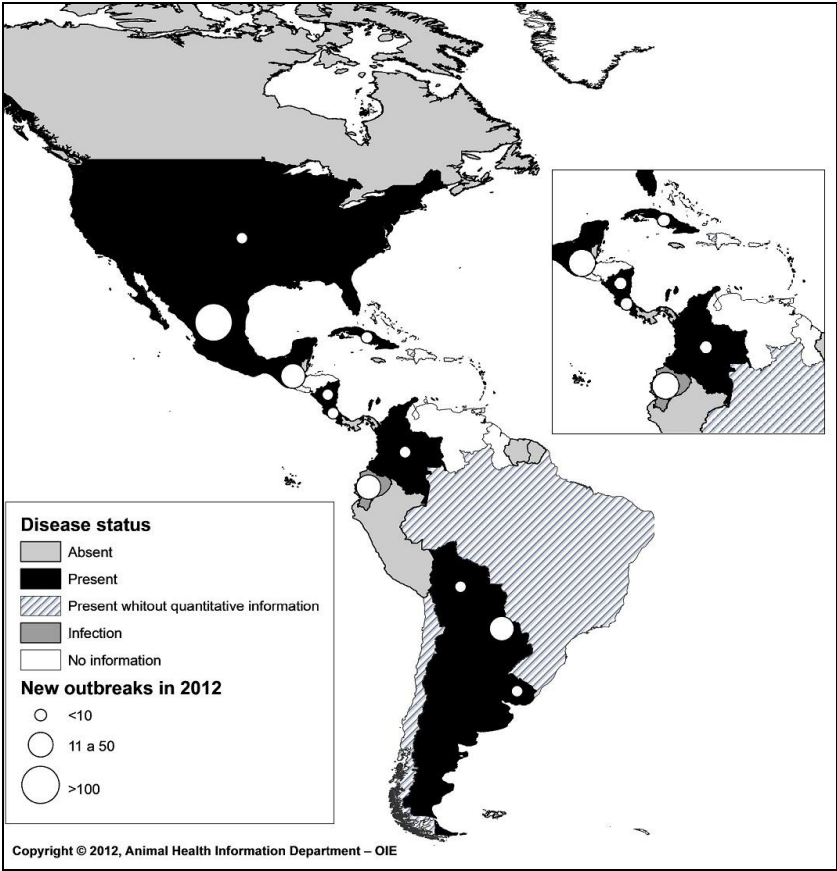
211. It should be noted that the date of "start of the programme" refers to the current programmes for bovine tuberculosis, with the control measures implemented in recent years. Most countries already had disease control programmes prior to these dates.

¹⁵ Destruction of positive animals

¹⁶ Free Premises Certification

212. Amongst the main obstacles encountered by countries in implementing their control and eradication programmes, **Peru** referred to stamping-out, as the farmers concerned receive no financial compensation. **Ecuador** stated that farmers are reluctant to adopt the programme.
213. According to the 21 reports received by the OIE for the first semester of 2012 and the reports prepared by **Barbados, Brazil, Haiti and Jamaica** for this Conference, the disease is absent from ten countries/territories. Fourteen countries reported TB as a clinical disease, or clinical in certain zones. **Ecuador** reported TB as an infection. **Brazil¹⁷, Chile and Haiti¹⁷** are the only countries that submitted no quantitative data regarding the disease (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Distribution of bovine tuberculosis and number of new outbreaks notified in the Americas in 2012



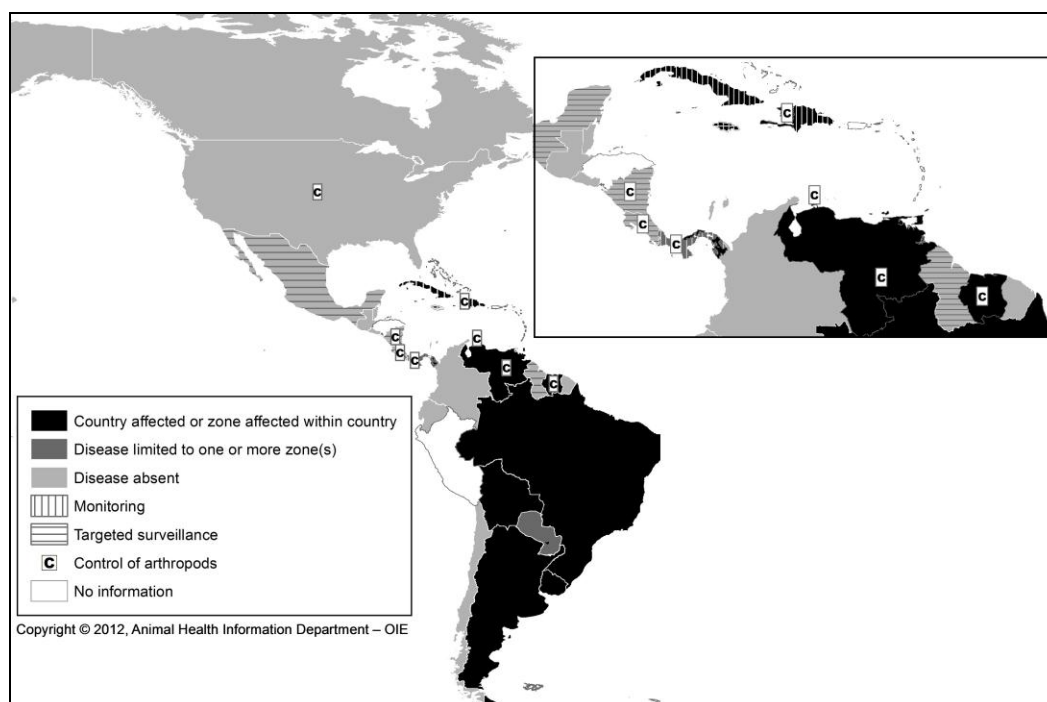
214. Bovine tuberculosis control and eradication programmes have led, in recent years, to a decrease in prevalence in some of the affected countries. The increased number of disease-free zones in the Americas is a good indicator of success for the work carried out by Veterinary Services. In the future, disease control will require the identification of wildlife reservoirs and early detection of positive animals in farms, as both measures serve to reduce TB transmission rates. In those countries where an eradication programme is underway, it is of strategic importance to provide a system of compensation for producers affected by early slaughter measures.

¹⁷ Brazil and Haiti have not submitted their first six-monthly report of 2012.

5. New World Screwworm

215. *Cochliomyia hominivorax*, also known as the screwworm, belongs to the family *Calliphoridae* in the order Diptera (true flies), and, in larval phase, is a strict parasite of mammals. The larvae, which eat the skin and underlying tissue of the host, cause wounds and a condition known as traumatic myiasis that can be fatal. Infestation tends to occur in places with prior lesions, but may also affect mucous membranes in body orifices. Myiasis also presents a public health concern.
216. Female flies are attracted by the wounds, in whose edges each female deposits an average of 340 eggs. The larvae emerge after 12-24 hours and immediately begin to eat, burrowing head-first into the wound. Following a development that includes three larval stages and two moults, the larvae leave the host and drop to the ground to pupate. The duration of their life cycle outside the host depends on temperature; the higher the temperature, the shorter the cycle, and in the tropics the complete cycle may take less than three weeks. In general, treatment involves the application of organophosphate insecticides in the infested wounds. Preventive measures include spraying or dipping susceptible cattle with organophosphate compound and, more recently, subcutaneous inoculation of avermectins.
217. Historically, the parasite has been endemic to various countries in the Americas, and, in the last two years, was reported in the following 14 countries, according to their six-monthly reports submitted to the OIE: **Argentina, Aruba, Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, Dominican Republic, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay** and **Venezuela**.
218. In May 2012, **Panama** reported an increase in new world screwworm myiasis. The diagnosis was performed by the OIE reference laboratory, COPEG (Commission for the Eradication and Prevention of screwworm). Control measures consisted of the sterile fly technique, restricting animal movements within the country, zoning and treatment of affected animals.
219. In **Haiti**, the disease was diagnosed in coordination with the FAO and with assistance from Cuban technicians who, alongside their Haitian colleagues, succeeded in sampling the entire country, demonstrating the parasite's presence in all species and municipalities of the country. Financial assistance is needed to control and eradicate the disease.
220. **Jamaica** has a disease control programme, involving routine and targeted surveillance, both in animal and human populations. The programme includes, as a preventive measure, the application of pesticides (Asuntol ®), distributed free of charge to every animals owners, and treatment of affected animals.
221. In **Costa Rica** the control and eradication programme was established in 1993 through a convention with the USDA, which provided for the sterile fly technique. In 1996, sterile flies were released, and the country was declared disease-free in October 2000. At present, there is a programme of routine surveillance (reporting), targeted surveillance (inspection of establishments within a 25-kilometre radius of suspected outbreaks) and mixed surveillance (whereby technicians visit an average of five to seven cattle farms per day).
222. Figure 8 shows the countries affected by New World screwworm myiasis during the period 2011-2012, and the use of arthropod control as a main control measure, especially in Central America. It also indicates countries where the disease has been absent for a long time, such as **Costa Rica** (since 1999) Mexico (since 2001), **Nicaragua** (since 1996) or **Guyana** (that has never reported the disease) but that apply surveillance activities, preventively.

Figure 8: Distribution of countries affected by *Cochliomyia hominivorax* in the Americas between 2011 and 2012



223. In countries where the disease is endemic, biological control through the sterile fly technique has proven to be an excellent means of control and subsequent eradication. There is a surprising lack of control of the fly in South American countries where the disease is present. Early detection in countries where the disease is absent is of strategic importance for prevention. Cooperation between countries of the region, in order to control and eradicate the disease, was highlighted, especially with the one provided by the Government of the **United States** and, more recently, with **Cuba's** support to Haiti.

6. Small Hive Beetle Infestation (*Aethina tumida*)

224. The small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*), of the family *Nutidulidae*, is a scavenger parasite of honey bee colonies, originally from Sub-Saharan Africa, where the problems it causes are generally minor and associated with already weakened hives.

225. Adults and larvae feed on honeybee brood, honey and pollen, causing death in the former, fermentation of honey and comb destruction. This is a serious problem for honey extraction rooms where the comb, honey and cappings become feeding and breeding grounds for the beetle. Their development takes three to twelve weeks, depending on temperature and availability of food. The winged adults actively infest hives. Acaricides and insecticides may be used for treatment, but, due to the risk of creating resistance and leaving residues in the products of the hive, more sustainable control techniques are under study.

226. In the **United States**, the parasite's presence was first confirmed in 1998, in the State of Florida. It was probably introduced through South Carolina, from where it spread to Georgia and Florida. DNA sequencing has demonstrated that the small hive beetles found in Africa and the Americas belong to the same species¹⁸. In 2006, the year the disease was put on the OIE-List, it was notified by **Canada** and the **United States** and, the following year, by **Mexico**. More recently, in August 2012, **Cuba** reported the presence of the parasite.

¹⁸ Elzen PJ, Neumann P. 2004. The biology of the small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*, Murray): Gaps in our knowledge of an invasive species. *Apidologie* 35: 229-247.

227. According to the six-monthly reports of 2011 and 2012, immediate notifications and follow-up reports, the disease was present in **Canada**, **Cuba**, the **United States** and **Mexico**. A total of 19 Member Countries classify the disease as never reported, and nine countries/territories¹⁹ provide no information on its occurrence.
228. In September 2008, **Canada** notified a reoccurrence of the disease; the previous occurrence had been in 2006. It was detected in hives near the south-western edge of the province of Quebec, a few kilometres from the US border. Since then, and as a result of enhanced surveillance, a total of 39 additional outbreaks were detected in subsequent seasons, in Quebec and Ontario. Studies have shown that the small hive beetle can survive Canadian winters. Genetic sequencing of the beetle in Canadian hives has shown that they are closely related to those present in the United States, and it is thought that movements of hives from the southern US to northern states along the Canadian border represent a risk of introduction into Canada. The beetle is found in south-western Ontario, where affected apiaries have been quarantined. In the province of Quebec, all infested sites were depopulated. The event is still on going.
229. In May 2010, the **United States** notified the first occurrence of the disease in the state of Hawaii. Subsequent state-wide inspection revealed the presence of the adult beetle in several hives, but in small numbers (a maximum of four). Amongst the measures taken were arthropod control and treatment of affected hives. On the basis of that event, the disease was declared endemic.
230. In December 2009 **Mexico** reported a reoccurrence of the disease in the state of Coahuila, with nine outbreaks. The actions taken were quarantining, restrictions on movements, stamping-out, zoning, screening and post-event treatment. The OIE received two further notifications in August and September 2010, regarding the states of Nuevo León and Tamaulipas, respectively. Owing to difficulties in containing these events, the disease was declared endemic to those states on 18 November 2011. In May 2012, the disease was notified in the state of San Luís de Potosí, with one hive affected; the event is still on going.
231. In August 2012, **Cuba** reported the first occurrence of the disease Santo Domingo, Villa Clara in the northern part of the island. The apiary had 25 hives, of which one was affected, and only adult beetles (no larvae) were detected. The origin of the infestation has not been established, and the event is still on going.
232. The first sign of hive infestation by *Aethina tumida* is the presence of adult beetles, which measure 5 mm long and 3 mm wide. Under inspection, the adult beetles flee sunlight and can be detected as they run to hide in corners or, typically, on the combs. As diagnosis (with basic laboratory tests) is simple, it would be interesting to know how many countries in the Americas are performing some sort of surveillance or monitoring for the disease.
233. In Table 5, countries are classified on the basis of status (present/absent) and the control and preventive measures applied. **Barbados**, **Belize**, **Haiti** and the **Dominican Republic**, that declared the disease as "never reported", apply no measures. Continuing with the countries in which the disease is absent, **Argentina**, **Brazil**, **Chile**, **Costa Rica**, **Guatemala** and **Nicaragua** declare that they perform some sort of surveillance. **Jamaica**, in its report to this Conference, states that it has a programme of routine and targeted surveillance; however, in its last six-monthly report to the OIE (1st semester 2011), no information on the disease appears.

¹⁹ Bahamas, France (Guadeloupe, French Guyana and Martinique), Guyana, Honduras (last report sent to OIE, 2nd semester 2010), Jamaica, Panama and Paraguay.

Table 5: Status regarding small hive beetle infestation (*Aethina tumida*) and control actions, prophylaxis and prevention measures in the Americas between 2011 and 2012

COUNTRY	STATUS	CONTROL ACTIONS	DISEASE NOTIFIABLE	CONTROL AT BORDERS	SURVEILLANCE	MONITORING	SCREENING	MOVEMENT CONTROL	STAMPING OUT	ZONING
Canada	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Routine		Yes		Modified	
Cuba	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Routine			Yes		Yes
Mexico	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Targeted	Yes	Yes	Yes	Total	Yes
United States of America	Present	Yes	Yes		Routine			Yes		
Argentina	Never reported	Yes	Yes	Yes	Routine		Yes	Yes	Total	Yes
Bolivia	Never reported	Yes	Yes	Yes						
Brazil	Never reported	Yes	Yes	Yes	Routine				Total	
Chile	Never reported	Yes	Yes	Yes	Routine					
Colombia	Never reported	Yes	Yes	Yes						
Costa Rica	Never reported	Yes	Yes	Yes	Routine					
Ecuador	Never reported	Yes		Yes						
El Salvador	Never reported	Yes	Yes							
Guatemala	Never reported	Yes	Yes	Yes	Targeted			Yes	Total	
Nicaragua	Never reported	Yes	Yes	Yes	Targeted					
Peru	Never reported	Yes	Yes							
Surinam	Never reported	Yes	Yes	Yes						
Trinidad y Tobago	Never reported	Yes		Yes						
Uruguay	Never reported	Yes		Yes						
Venezuela	Never reported	Yes	Yes	Yes						
Barbados	Never reported	No								
Belize	Never reported	No								
Dominican Republic	Never reported	No								
Haiti	Never reported	No								

234. The absence of information from nine countries/territories regarding disease status is something Veterinary Authorities should be concerned with. In turn, the countries in which the disease has never occurred should establish preventive and surveillance measures, above and beyond compulsory notification and border controls. All this is important given the ease with which the disease can spread (by winged adult beetles), especially in Central America where, with the exception of Cuba, the disease has never been declared present.

7. White Spot Disease

235. White spot disease is caused by a virus of the family *Nimaviridae*, genus *Whispovirus*. The virus has a wide range of hosts, including all decapod crustaceans, of which cultured shrimp of the family *Penaeidae* may be particularly susceptible. Clinical signs include a sudden drop in food consumption, lethargy, discolouration and the appearance of white spots on the exoskeleton. In shrimp populations, outbreaks are characterised by high mortality within just a few days. The disease has been detected on several continents. Predisposing factors include: the life-cycle stage of the crustacean, temperatures below 30°C, changes in salinity and concomitant bacterial diseases.

236. Viral transmission occurs mainly through ingestion of infected tissue (horizontal transmission), contaminated water and, in some cases, vertical transmission (trans-ovum), typical of shrimp farms.

237. In terms of volume, the Americas represent 4.3% of world production in aquaculture (Asia represents 89%). The main crustacean producers in the Americas are **Mexico, Brazil and Ecuador**. Although shrimp do not constitute the highest-volume product, they are important in terms of value since, in 2010, they represented approximately 15% of the total value of world trade in aquaculture products.²⁰
238. The **United States** reported a reoccurrence of the disease in Hawaii in November 2011; following a slight increase in mortality in some of the ponds of the production facility, samples were taken and the virus detected. The event was resolved on 14 February 2012. A second event was reported in July 2012, on the basis of routine tests performed in the framework of the Shrimp Surveillance and Certification Programme (SSCP) of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. On the date of this report, there are no more shrimp in the affected farm. In both cases disease control and stamping out were applied, including emptying of affected ponds, cleaning and disinfection, and biosecurity measures in order to avoid viral spread to non-affected ponds and farms.
239. In 2011 **Mexico** reported 15 outbreaks of the disease and, in the first semester 2012, a total of 33 new outbreaks, affecting 226,800 animals out of a susceptible population of 118,942,700 shrimp. According to data from the Mexican shrimp industry,²¹ in 2011, the Sonora Company (leading national producer of cultured shrimp) located on the Costa de Hermosillo, lost around 7,500 direct jobs and US\$150 million due to the disease.
240. On the basis of the 18 first-semester 2012 reports and the six-monthly reports for 2011²² the situation in the Americas can be seen in Figure 9. Ten countries/territories provided no information. In 14 countries, the disease was absent or never reported. Seven countries²³ reported the disease as clinical or clinical in certain zones. Only six countries have a targeted surveillance and/or monitoring programme for the disease. Amongst countries where the disease is present, only **Brazil, Mexico, Nicaragua** and the **United States** use stamping-out as a control measure (Figure 9).

²⁰ The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture – Fisheries and Aquaculture Department of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, FAO, Rome, 2012, at:

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/016/i2727s/i2727s.pdf>

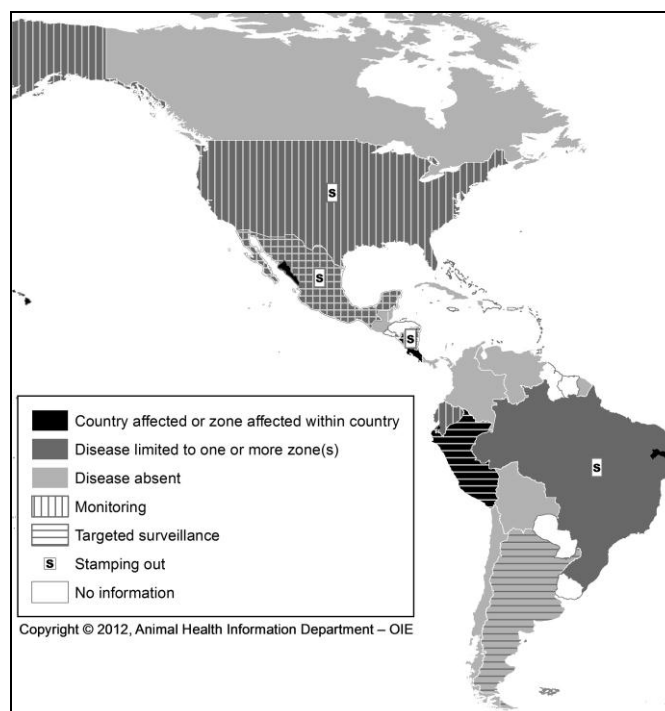
²¹ *La cura a la mancha blanca* at:

http://www.panoramaacuicola.com/noticias/2012/01/30/la_cura_a_la_mancha_blanca.html

²² Bahamas and Honduras have been not considered by not having six-monthly reports for 2011.

²³ Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru and the United States.

Figure 9: White spot disease distribution in the Americas between 2011 and 2012



241. This disease that has occurred in several parts of the Americas has had a major economic impact on the shrimp and lobster industry in the region. In order to achieve effective disease control, there must be on going evaluation of biosecurity measures, as well as of good farming practices, for example, avoiding stress due to high shrimp densities in ponds.

Discussions

242. The Chairman thanked Dr Ben Jebara for his clear presentation.

243. Dr Guilherme Marques, Delegate of Brazil and Session Chairperson, thanked Dr Ben Jebara for his presentation. After summarising the points covered, he opened the discussion.

244. The Delegate of Panama clarified his country's tuberculosis status, stating that the prevalence indicated in the report was for the initial value in a time series and related to a single region, adding that in the end it had been declared tuberculosis-free. He said that, in this case, financial compensation had been provided to the owners of the five affected herds and surveillance had been stepped up to ensure tuberculosis-free status.

245. In the case of screwworm, he explained that only three to five cases had been reported in the Darién area on the border with Colombia and that studies had revealed this finding to be the result of the expansion of sterile flies.

246. In the case of shrimp diseases, he reminded the Commission that a meeting had been held in Panama stressing the importance of conducting further research on the incidence of shrimp early mortality syndrome in the Asia region. He therefore asked for more attention to be paid to this situation.

247. The Delegate of Mexico commented on targeted surveillance for H7N3 influenza virus, as it had been reported in wild birds in the region, where cases developed in domestic poultry. He drew attention to the arrival of migratory birds as from November, making it important to sample wild birds in collaboration with hunters and environment officials.

248. He said that the latest outbreak had affected 11.3 million laying hens, with a further 11 million birds culled voluntarily by their producers, making a total of 22.3 million birds culled.
249. As regards tuberculosis, he said that Mexico had implemented a strong eradication programme since 1993, with an annual investment of 30 million US dollars, under which greater coordination with other Southern Cone and Central American countries was sought and meetings were held on the matter. He invited the Commission to establish a regional network of tuberculosis experts to coordinate actions to eradicate tuberculosis.
250. Dr John Clifford, Delegate of the United States of America, expressed concern about how epidemiological situations were depicted on the disease distribution maps presented. He argued that the graphical representation of the maps did not adequately reflect the epidemiological values.
251. As regards tuberculosis, he said that the United States of America had had an eradication plan in place since 1917, which had still not achieved its initial objective, having reached a point of extremely low prevalence despite the huge efforts.
252. He explained that, for countries with very low prevalence of the disease, the diagnostic tools currently available are not sensitive enough to detect the disease. It is very expensive to test large populations when the prevalence is so low, and therefore, more effective to redirect resources and target populations where the disease is more likely to be found.
253. Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, President of the World Assembly of Delegates, reminded the Commission that one of the OIE's missions was to maintain transparency in disease reporting, and recognised that the way in which animal health information was currently depicted did not allow conclusions to be drawn and this did not encourage countries to report diseases.
254. She said that, despite this, all the animal health information was available on the OIE website and that this presentation was an opportunity to present the Commission with a summary analysis of the region's animal health situation.
255. She also reminded the Commission that OIE Member Countries were expected to act on the basis of OIE Codes and Manuals, and that countries should be encouraged to eradicate animal diseases. Therefore, available information should support reporting and the commitment to eradicate diseases.
256. In answer to the comments concerning the inaccuracy of the information presented, Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, reminded the Commission that the information was drawn from country reports. He acknowledged that the way in which the information was depicted on the maps could be improved to provide information that would not lead to the wrong conclusions.
257. The Delegate of Jamaica said that his country had begun a tuberculosis eradication programme in 1975, and that the last case had been detected 30 years ago using the tuberculin test. He explained that his country was currently in a stage of heightened surveillance, having increased significantly the number of samples taken without the disease being detected.
258. He agreed with the position of the Delegate of Mexico regarding the importance of monitoring migratory birds, drawing the attention of countries in the sub-region to the migration routes of wild birds, and the possible transmission of West Nile virus.
259. The Delegate of Panama said that potential events in farms and zoos needed to be taken into account, making it essential to work jointly with OIE National Focal Point for wildlife.

260. Dr Alex Thiermann thanked the President of the World Assembly of Delegates for referring to OIE standards, taking into account the need for disease reporting and the importance of continued epidemiological surveillance measures, even in situations where no cases had been detected for a long time.
261. Dr Francine Lord, speaking on behalf of the Canadian delegation, was concerned to find that the report that had been presented made no reference to her country's real tuberculosis status, stating that Canada had been tuberculosis-free since the 1980s, with isolated cases having been reported on the basis of wildlife samples taken in Manitoba.
262. Dr Guilherme Marques, Delegate of Brazil, closed the discussion, saying that Dr Ben Jebara's presentation had triggered a highly important debate and could act as a catalyst for improving epidemiological surveillance and disease reporting in the region.
263. In closing the session, the Chairman of the Conference requested that, in epidemiological maps of the Americas region, consideration be given to providing the part corresponding to the Caribbean countries on a larger scale, in order to ensure that the information concerning their animal health situation was displayed correctly.
264. The Delegates thanked Dr Ben Jebara for his presentation on the animal health status of the region. The Delegates also recommended that the Animal Health Information Department consider certain changes to the presentation of data, in order to maximize the utilization of the improved WAHIS system and the benefits for all Members from the animal health data. When presenting disease occurrence in countries and regions, the Delegates asked for a more precise representation of the prevalence and distribution of cases, in order to more accurately visualize whether a situation was endemic or isolated. They also requested that the OIE consider processing and adding value to the data provided by Members by providing trends and patterns of significance to disease prevention and control, as well as to safety in trade.

Tuesday 27 November 2012

Technical item II Innovative strategies for strengthening regional animal health networks

265. The Session Chairperson, Dr Francisco Muzio, CVO of Uruguay, briefly introduced Dr Thierry Lefrançois, Director of UMR CMAEE CIRAD-INRA, and speaker for this technical item.
266. Dr Lefrançois introduced his presentation by explaining that epidemiosurveillance networks face numerous challenges such as: diverse diseases, farming practices and environments; language barriers; heterogeneous socio-economic development levels, health infrastructure and laboratory and epidemiology capabilities; disparate veterinary legislation and health policies; and ever scarcer human and funding resources. He added that these factors were major constraints for the establishment of regional animal health networks, especially in the context of disease emergence/re-emergence as a result of trade globalisation, the intensification of animal, human and product movements, and environmental changes.
267. He went on to explain that, as regional animal health networks generally aimed to help harmonise and reinforce animal disease surveillance and control activities in the countries of a region, the above factors challenged this very objective.

268. Dr Lefrançois said that his report highlighted the key factors that regional animal health networks needed to consider in order to tackle these challenges, increase cost-efficiency and work towards ensuring network sustainability.
269. He added that some examples of what was being done in the Caribbean would be used to show how such activities had contributed to the development of the Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVET).
270. Dr Lefrançois said that recommendations had been proposed to accord with a long-term vision of enhancing Veterinary Services and covered the following issues: formalisation of regional animal health networks; official recognition by international organisations; synergistic interactions with animal health projects being conducted in the same region; application of quality assurance principles to the management and coordination of regional networks; advocacy at the highest levels on network relevancy, impact and communication; and promotion of interaction between research, surveillance and capacity-building programmes.
271. Dr Lefrançois remarked that, from their intermediate position between national surveillance networks and international systems, regional animal health networks played a significant role in strengthening national surveillance systems, especially in developing regions, by building capacity, transferring knowledge and conducting useful research.
272. It was his view that, even though some regional animal health networks had been set up with short-term funding resources, they should be developed with a long-term vision. He said that, despite many difficulties and after a long-term process, CaribVET had experienced successful development, with a real buy-in by the region's chief veterinary officers and a genuine willingness to be transparent and contribute to achieving the goal of "One Caribbean, One Animal Health".
273. He went on to give details on the CaribVET network, which was currently working on improving its cost-effectiveness by: developing joint activities with regional/international organisations and with animal health projects conducted in the region; identifying and addressing regional priorities; promoting virtual tools; and sharing responsibilities.
274. Dr Lefrançois noted that the continuous improvement of CaribVET was based on implementing quality assurance principles, saying that this was expected to lead to the development of performance indicators for internal evaluation, which could prove useful in providing funding agencies with a rationale for supporting such activities.
275. To conclude, Dr Lefrançois said that CaribVET had identified a number of factors as key for sustainability. A tentative definition of a sustainable regional animal health network might be: "a structured network, endorsed by members, with annual steering committee meetings funded by members and with access to funding resources from regional network partners for the implementation of relevant activities to tackle priority diseases in the region; the network should be managed to ensure that the work is not duplicated and the results are action-oriented."

Discussions

276. Dr Max Millien, Delegate of Haiti, thanked Dr Lefrançois for his presentation, saying that it is necessary to promote the development and implementation of national networks because they are the basis for obtaining epidemiological data and a key element of governance. He expressed the view that regional and international networks failed to accord the necessary importance and support to national networks.

277. Dr Lefrançois agreed that national systems are the basis of regional systems but pointed out that, in the case of the Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVET), the funds available are specific in scope, either within countries or at the level of their interaction within networks.
278. He stressed the validity and importance of the OIE PVS Pathway for countries and acknowledged the OIE PVS Gap Analysis as a very valuable tool for quantifying countries' needs prior to implementing local surveillance and other actions.
279. Dr Ricardo Molins, representing IICA, held CaribVET up as an example to be followed by other regions of the world, saying that emphasis should be placed on its sustainability, especially as it consists of small countries with limited resources, given that senior officials are not usually involved or aware of its true importance. This includes the "One Health" concept, among other things.
280. Cost-benefit studies for special cases should be useful for convincing policy-makers of the need to invest in animal health.
281. Dr Brian Evans, Delegate of Canada, commended CaribVET's leadership and said that the experience and results obtained could serve as a working model for the region, making Regional Commission support and contribution to its sustainability vital.
282. As the CaribVET governance structure consists solely of members from the animal health field, a useful strategy might be to create an enabling environment for the participation of the region's policy-makers, as well as to expand the network into areas such as public health and food safety, and to allow other organisations to join.
283. Dr Margaret Kalloo, Deputy Programme Manager, agreed with the comments of the IICA Representative and Delegate of Canada, explaining that some CaribVET member countries are also members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). From CARICOM's point of view, the aim is to promote support for CaribVET through a working group of Chief Veterinary Officers of CARICOM Member States.
284. She pointed out that CARICOM Ministers of Agriculture have adopted and endorsed the CaribVET Charter, and that the Caribbean Agriculture Development Agenda recognises the role of CaribVET and ensures its sustainability.
285. In answer to the comment by Dr Brian Evans, Dr Lefrançois explained that currently, there are CaribVET working groups on public health, focusing on salmonellosis, leptospirosis and rabies and that, through collaboration with FAO, it is expected to increase the participation of human health institutions. There have been joint meetings with public health authorities in the past but currently there are no linkage activities, although they are considered to be necessary in the near future.
286. Dr Cedric Lazarus, speaking on behalf of FAO, affirmed his organisation's commitment to CaribVET activities, saying that support measures should focus on levels higher than Chief Veterinary Officers, and even extend to ministries of finance, cabinets and prime ministers. Support measures require the joint support of OIE, FAO, IICA and other relevant regional and international organisations.
287. Dr Karin Schwabenbauer welcomed the high female participation rate in the Veterinary Services of CaribVET member countries and asked Dr Lefrançois what he felt to be innovative about the CaribVET network.

288. Dr Lefrançois replied that the main innovation is that activities are developed and led by a network of Veterinary Services, epidemiologists, diagnosticians and researchers, and that discussions take place within multidisciplinary teams in order to produce science-based prevention and control tools that can be used effectively by Veterinary Services. The other innovation is that quality assurance principles are applied to the network, adding that a cost-benefit analysis of the network is being initiated.
289. Dr Schwabenbauer thanked Dr Lefrançois for his answer, saying that she was pleased to see the successful outcome of actions by a group of highly professional, motivated individuals who had found in the existing context a basis for producing results together.
290. The Session Chairperson invited the following countries and organisations to participate in drafting the recommendation for Technical Item II: Canada, Haiti, Panama; CARICOM, FAO, IICA.

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission – Issues of interest to the Region - Challenges and proposals

291. Dr Victor Manuel Vidal, Vice-President of the Aquatic Animals Health Standards Commission, explained that the objective of his presentation was to communicate to the OIE Member Countries of the Americas the proposals more important for updating the Aquatic Code and Manual made by the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (AAC) in 2012.
292. About the Aquatic Code, he mentioned the proposal to continue gathering epidemiological information on emerging disease, since it is a very important factor to consider their potential inclusion in the OIE listed diseases. The AAC proposed to list infection with ostreid herpesvirus μ var (OsHV-1 μ var) as an emerging disease since there is published evidence of dispersion and mortality in abalone populations. The AAC proposed to keep the name of the “Infectious salmon anaemia (infection with HPR-deleted or HPR0 forms of ISAV)” and to use the notifiable form “Endemic HPR0, HPR-deleted free”. The AAC agreed with the conclusion of the *ad hoc* Group that the Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome (EUS) should remain listed because it fulfils the necessary OIE criteria for listing. The AAC agreed with the recommendations made by the *ad hoc* Group that Epizootic ulcerative syndrome be renamed ‘Infection with *Aphanomyces invadans*’. The AAC Commission concluded that “Salmon pancreas disease” meets all the OIE criteria for listing.
293. About the Aquatic Manual, Dr Vidal informed that the AAC proposed to extend the publication cycle to four years, beginning in 2014, in order to avoid workload coinciding with the Terrestrial Manual. The AAC will revise from now on specific chapters in the Manual (ISA, EUS, OsHv-1 μ var), on a yearly basis, in every meeting. The AAC received three stand-alone documents presented by the *ad hoc* Group on how to develop surveillance systems specific for fish (Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia), molluscs (*Bonamia ostreae*) and crustaceans (white spot disease). Reviewed documents will be given an ISBN number and published on the Commission’s web page.
294. He also talked about the OIE Reference Centres, notifying that the AAC was given the report of a recent OIE mission visiting one of the OIE Reference Laboratories. The AAC expressed the view that it is essential that all OIE Reference Laboratories operate within a functional quality system and recommended that the OIE conduct similar on-site visits to other Reference Laboratories. The Commission was informed that the annual reports of OIE Reference Laboratories will be on line starting on 2013.

295. Referring to the Laboratory Twinning Projects, Dr Vidal mentioned that there was a Laboratory Twinning Project between Chile and Canada for the salmon infectious anaemia and that the AAC received three proposals. U.S.A – China for infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN); U.S.A – Indonesia for crustacean/shrimp diseases; Japan –Indonesia for Koi herpes virus. The AAC was not aware of any reason to disagree with the experts on the OIE procedure for registration of diagnostic kits and supported the renewal of the registration for the kit IQ 2000™ WSSV Detection and Prevention System.
296. He concluded talking about other relevant activities. The AAC was notified that the PVS tool for the evaluation of Aquatic Animal Health Services will be published as a booklet in 2013. Finally, the next AAC meeting will be held on 11-15 March 2013.

Discussions

297. Dr Oscar Videla Pérez, Delegate of Chile, said that strengthening the aquatic animal health function of Veterinary Services will be a challenge for the region and that the most effective way of doing this would be to push forward with implementing the OIE PVS Tool for aquatic animal health services.
298. Dr Vidal said that this will make it very important to have evaluation results as a diagnosis of the scale of the problems facing countries in the region, in order to develop and optimise ad hoc tools. The Delegate of Mexico agreed with Dr Vidal's comment.
299. Dr Max Millien, Delegate of Haiti, expressed concern that some countries do not have adequate resources to deal with aquatic animal diseases, asking what form of cooperation could be used to resolve this problem. He said that Haiti had received much support and training but no training on aquatic animal diseases, a situation common to other countries in the Caribbean sub-region.
300. Dr Vidal said that one option would be to coordinate countries' needs with the capabilities of universities, with the possibility of linking CaribVET to this, to add an aquatic animal health component. As regards the necessary funds, he believed that bilateral agreements could be reviewed for that purpose.
301. Dr Osbil Watson, Delegate of Jamaica, expressed concern over the possible impact of the invasive species such as the lionfish on the biodiversity when there is aquaculture production in natural aquatic environments.
302. Dr Vidal informed that the OIE was working on this matter in collaboration with the Biological Standards Commission. He then added that Cuba, the United States of America and Mexico are currently working on this issue and that OIE support would be relevant.
303. The European Commission representative said that, in the week prior to Conference, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) had issued a scientific opinion on the risk for the emergence of pathogenic and from non-pathogenic strains of the infectious salmon anaemia virus, concluding that there is low but not negligible risk of emergence of the pathogenic variety, and that this opinion would be provided to the OIE (this opinion is publicly available on the EFSA website at <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/2971.htm>).
304. Dr Leonardo Mascitelli, representative of Argentina, welcomed the presentation, saying that Argentina's National Health and Agrifood Quality Service (SENASA) has an aquatic animal disease programme and a national Focal Point has been appointed and is in office. He acknowledged the importance currently accorded to aquatic animal diseases.

305. Dr Hugo Fragoso Sánchez, speaking as Delegate of Mexico, endorsed the views of the Delegate of Chile, adding that there is still much progress to be made with aquatic animal health, but that the experience acquired with terrestrial animals should be leveraged. The work of the region's diagnostic and reference laboratories and the application of the OIE PVS Tool to aquatic animal health services should be promoted. He concluded by putting at the disposal of Member Countries both his department of aquatic animal diseases and the diagnostic laboratory network for aquatic animals.
306. Dr Vallat added that aquatic animal diseases are becoming an increasingly important issue and recommended that all Veterinary Services give further consideration to them, as the OIE has developed tools to support Members in building their capacity in this area.
307. He said that the development of the OIE PVS Tool for aquatic animals has been a great achievement but that unfortunately demand for PVS evaluations by Member Countries has been extremely low.
308. He felt that if the goal is to convince Member Country authorities to increase spending on Veterinary Services to extend their scope and their collaboration capacity with other Ministries (when Veterinary Services are not responsible of that topic at first) to aquatic animals, it is essential to increase demand for OIE PVS evaluations for aquatic animals.
309. He stressed that in more than half of Member Countries, aquatic animals are under the responsibility of institutions outside the Veterinary Services and that the OIE would welcome Veterinary Services taking over that responsibility or better collaborate with other services.
310. In his opinion, Veterinary Services that are able to handle programmes to control terrestrial animal diseases also have the required capability to extend their scope to aquatic animals with a minimal investment as a condition.
311. As regards training, the OIE Director General stressed the need to appoint National Focal Points for aquatic animal diseases, who must always work with the OIE under the authority of the Delegate to the OIE irrespective of the organisation in which they work. He mentioned training activities carried out to date for focal points, suggesting the possibility of organising regional training activities in collaboration with other organisations such as the FAO.
312. Dr Luis Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, announced that a workshop for National Focal Points for aquatic animal diseases will be held next year in Mexico, and that it will be followed by an open seminar to show the status of aquaculture and aquatic animal health in the region.
313. Dr Abelardo de Gracia said that the OIRSA holds annual training courses on the pathology and diagnosis of diseases of farmed shrimp and that the next one will be in Guatemala. He promised to distribute the information to Commission Member Countries.
314. Dr Glen Halze, Delegate of Peru, said that one unresolved issue is the lack of trained professionals in aquaculture and aquatic animal diseases.
315. Dr Manuel González Cano, Delegate of Panama, said that there is an agreement between Panama's public and private sectors regarding the need to apply the OIE PVS Tool to aquatic animals, and that currently they are promoting work experience in aquaculture and aquatic animal diseases for students in their final year of a veterinary science degree.

Case study: Country experience in the implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway

316. The Session Chairperson, Dr Mark Trotman, invited Dr German Rojas, Delegate of Costa Rica to present his country's experience of implementing the OIE PVS Pathway.
317. Dr German Rojas started his presentation informing the Regional Commission that the OIE implemented the evaluation of Veterinary Services of the Republic of Costa Rica, following the request that the General Director of Animal Health National Service (SENASA) and Delegate to the OIE had made in March 2007.
318. The OIE PVS evaluation mission on SENASA's performance implemented in April 2010 was a follow-up of the 2007 OIE PVS evaluation.
319. He explained that in 2007, the evaluation was held using the 2006 version of the Performance, Vision and Strategy tool: a tool for governance of Veterinary Services, which included a total of 31 critical competencies. In 2010 evaluation, the instrument used was the fourth edition of the OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (OIE PVS Tool), issued in 2009, which counts a total of 40 critical competencies. In November 2010 a PVS Gap Analysis mission has also been realised.
320. He then explained that out of the 31 critical competencies assessed during the first evaluation, 11 obtained a higher level of advancement in 2010 evaluation. This situation gives an orientation to the evolution of SENASA in the last years. It also allowed us to identify a number of important points to be improved or adapted.
321. To conclude, Dr Rojas mentioned that the country was also included in the Pilot Programme implemented by the OIE, "One Health" of the PVS Pathway. The goal of the mission visiting the country was to evaluate the activities of the Veterinary Services relevant to the relationship between humans and animals.
322. To summarize Dr Rojas detailed the objectives and results as follows:
 - Objectives:
 - Verify the collaboration with competent authorities of public health
 - Identify key opportunities for SENASA in order to improve both collaboration and coordination
 - Results: Possible development of a closer relationship and awareness between the authorities, particularly the Health Minister and SENASA.

Outcomes of the second FAO/OIE Global Conference on foot and mouth disease control and impacts

323. The Session Chairperson invited Dr John Clifford to present the outcomes of the Second FAO/OIE Global Conference on foot and mouth disease control and impacts.
324. Dr Clifford said that OIE and the FAO had jointly organised the second Global Conference on FMD Control in Bangkok, Thailand, from 27 to 29 June 2012, in order to propose the Global FMD Control Strategy. The conference was well attended, with 580 participants from 103 countries.
325. He explained that the Global FMD Control Strategy provided a structured framework for countries to progress in the control of FMD using among other, the FMD-PCP. He added that FMD control depended on several factors, including: producer participation; efficient Veterinary Services; surveillance systems with appropriate goals and objectives; diagnostic capability; vaccine production and distribution; and regional coordination.

326. Dr Clifford went on to explain that the Global FMD Control Strategy comprised three interdependent components. First, it recognised that, in some countries, eradication may not be a feasible goal in the short term and therefore it aimed to improve FMD control. Second, the strategy placed emphasis on strengthening Veterinary Services and encouraged countries to use the OIE PVS Pathway to identify problem areas. Third, the strategy recognised that, in FMD-endemic countries, producers might have additional disease priorities that needed to be addressed in parallel within a comprehensive disease control programme.
327. He stated that seven pools of genetically related FMD viruses are circulating in the world. These pools were shared by several countries, emphasising the need for regional approaches to control.
328. Dr Clifford mentioned that the Bangkok conference had stressed that the Global strategy would not replace already established FMD control initiatives, such as the successful programmes in South America and other regions of the world. The Global Strategy would work on a voluntary basis in coordination with regional institutions to ensure proper coordination.
329. He said that the conference had also addressed the economic aspects of FMD, adding that the impacts of FMD did not relate only to international trade implications. Animals that developed the disease did not fully recover their production. Furthermore, producers who relied on draught power to plough and harvest their land could suffer significant losses if FMD outbreaks happened to coincide with critical times in the agricultural cycle.
330. Dr Clifford explained that the conference had made recommendations divided into four categories: countries; technical partners; OIE and FAO; and development partners. In total there were 38 recommendations points.
331. He summarised the most salient recommendations, saying that the final recommendation was to hold the next global conference in Africa, in a country yet to be determined.
332. Dr Clifford concluded that global FMD control and eradication was a complex endeavour requiring all components to interact in a well-structured and coordinated way, adding that OIE and FAO involvement would ensure that this coordination occurred at the regional as well as at the global level.

Discussions

333. Dr Manuel González Cano, Delegate of Panama, felt that the Central America region needed to be linked more closely with the Global Foot and Mouth Disease Control Strategy. He also mentioned that the 40th meeting of the South American Committee for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease (COSALFA) would be held in Panama in 2013, coinciding with Panama's membership of COSALFA.

OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission – Issues of interest to the Region – Challenges and proposals

334. The Session Chairperson, Dr Mark Trotman, invited Dr Alex Thiermann to present issues of interest to the Region and challenges and proposals regarding the activities of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission.

335. Dr Thiermann highlighted to more salient topics which were discussed by the Code Commission during their September 2012 meeting, and whose report has been recently published in the OIE website. These should be carefully reviewed and commented by all Members for the February 2013 meeting. Among the most important topics for the region he mentioned the experts report on diseases to be delisted on the basis of the newly adopted listing criteria. The Code Commission expects every Member to examine the report and the Code Commission recommendations and provide scientifically justified positions in order to be able to delist these diseases in May 2013.
336. He described current efforts to harmonize the Aquatic and the Terrestrial Codes, restructuring the Code chapters while incorporating reference to wildlife species of epidemiological significance.
337. Among the various disease chapters being reviewed and developed he made specific mention to the newly developed text on trichinellosis, a novel approach to managing an important zoonotic pathogen that requires a different focus in order to prevent public health risks without unjustified trade restrictions. The chapter on avian influenza was reviewed and edited to more clearly reflect the uniqueness of the notification obligations and the status determinations.
338. Recognizing the importance of bees in agriculture worldwide, the Code Commission, assisted by the experts and the Scientific Commission revised all relevant bee disease chapters. In the area of food safety, the various chapters on antimicrobial resistance were reviewed and will be provided for comment before submitting them for adoption in May. Member comments will also be considered when developing the agenda for the upcoming global conference in antimicrobial resistance to take place in Paris this coming March.
339. On animal welfare, he highlighted the importance of providing comments on the chapters in broiler chicken production and beef cattle production, as well as the minor changes on the guidelines on livestock production systems and on animal welfare of animals used in research and teaching, all which will be presented next May for adoption.

Discussions

340. Dr Thiermann completed his presentation by asking countries to provide him with any topics of interest for the special session scheduled on Thursday.
341. The representative of Argentina, after thanking Dr Thiermann for his report, requested clarification on the OIE's work to develop a process for the official recognition of Members' classical swine fever (CSF) status.
342. The Delegate of Uruguay proposed that the Thursday session tackle OIE work on de-listing diseases and asked Dr Thiermann to share this list for consideration by the Commission. He also proposed that discussions be held on restructuring the Code chapter on FMD and stressed how important it was for this restructuring process to take into account countries' experience in controlling FMD.
343. The Delegate of Brazil agreed with the Delegate of Uruguay regarding restructuring the FMD Code chapter and emphasised the need for countries to embark on the OIE PVS Pathway because the quality of the Veterinary Services is of paramount importance for the proper control of animal diseases such as FMD.

344. The President of the Code Commission reiterated that the ultimate objective of FMD control is complete eradication and highlighted the importance for Member Countries to use the tools available to that end, including the OIE PVS Pathway, the Progressive Control Pathway for FMD and the OIE process for OIE endorsement of official national control programmes for FMD. On the subject of restructuring the FMD Code chapter, he said that while the objective will be to ensure better layout of information, the scientific content would not be called into question. He expressed the wish that a restructured FMD chapter would support countries in ensuring proper application of the chapter's existing FMD recommendations.
345. On the subject of CSF, Dr Thiermann explained that OIE work on developing provisions for recognising CSF country status had been delayed owing to the importance of addressing CSF epidemiology in wildlife.
346. The Delegate of Guatemala asked for clarification on the proposals raised to the OIE Scientific Commission by Central American countries regarding the recognition of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) status.
347. Dr Thiermann explained that, unfortunately, other priorities had forced the OIE to postpone the meeting of the relevant ad hoc group. However, the OIE will plan another meeting, using as a basis a new document prepared by OIE experts in order to try to resolve the problem of countries having small cattle population.
348. The Delegate of Canada requested clarification on how the OIE's work on antimicrobial resistance would be reflected in the upcoming OIE Global Conference on the Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents for Animals. He also proposed that the Thursday session be an opportunity for an open discussion on the involvement of Members of the Region in the standard-setting process and how to involve the national stakeholders in that process more fully.
349. The Delegate of Mexico suggested that the OIE should consider resistance not only to antimicrobial agents but also to antiparasitic agents as this has a major economic impact on animal production in some regions.
350. The OIE Director General, referring to the FAO/OIE Global Conference on Foot and Mouth Disease Control held in Bangkok (Thailand) confirmed to the Regional Commission the areas where donors are interested in supporting countries in their FMD control efforts, namely:
- the improvement of Veterinary Services using the OIE PVS Pathway;
 - the OIE official endorsement of the FMD national control programmes;
 - specific resources for FMD control, such as vaccines with the condition that support be provided to the Veterinary Services through the use of PVS;
 - inclusion of control activities targeting other production-limiting diseases thanks to the investments made to control FMD. This strategy which includes those pillars of action will allow to better demonstrate the positive cost-benefits of investments.
351. Regarding the Global Conference on the Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents for Animals to be held in March 2013, the OIE Director General highlighted the importance for the OIE and the veterinary community at large to be strongly involved in this topic whose importance will grow very rapidly with risks for the use of antibiotics in the veterinary sector.

Presentations by international and regional organisations

General Secretariat of the Andean Community (GSCAN)

352. Dr Rosa Guerrero, Representative of the Andean Community of Nations (CAN) reported that, in order to strengthen the Andean agricultural health system (SASA) (Decision 515), animal health standards are constantly updated and new Community regulations are developed. She said that there are also Andean standards on the registration, control, marketing and use of veterinary products (Decisions 483 and 769) and on Community risk analysis of animal diseases exotic to the sub-region (Decision 686), as well as an Andean regulation on quarantine for trade in or movements of terrestrial animals and their products between countries in the sub-region or with third countries (Decision 737). Andean standards on the trade and movement of animals and animal products cover 98% of current trade in such commodities between CAN member countries and third countries.
353. Dr Guerrero also said that the Andean sub-regional programme for the eradication of foot and mouth disease (Decisions 519 and 735) is also in operation, adding that significant progress has been made in recent years in the control and eradication of foot and mouth disease, with support from the FAO regional project for the progressive Control of Foot and Mouth Disease in the Andean Region. There is also an FAO technical cooperation project aimed mainly at strengthening Veterinary Services and developing a sub-regional programme for the control and eradication of classical swine fever (Decision 754). Dr Guerrero added that there are draft guidelines for developing health education and advocacy strategies for foot and mouth disease control and for establishing a sub-regional animal welfare plan. Joint actions are advancing with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and other international organisations to establish an Andean system for primary production food safety and a surveillance system for antimicrobial resistance in food of animal origin at the primary production stage.

Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP)

354. Dr. Guilherme Marques made a presentation on behalf of the Standing Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone, under the pro-tempore presidency of Brazil.
355. He said that the CVP is formed by Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, with an area of 14,981,917 km² and a population of 301 888 101 million cattle and buffalos. Its main objective is to coordinate actions and increase the regional capacity to prevent, control and avoid the impacts and health risks that affect the production and marketing of animals and their products, with the current strategy to consolidate the CVP as the reference entity through regional actions in the area of food safety and animal health.
356. He said the Committee found that the FMD outbreaks occurred in free zones where vaccination is practised showed some flaws in the operation of Veterinary Services, and those must be addressed together, as regional problem. Also commented that support actions carried out for the seroepidemiological sampling conducted in Paraguay, based on the CVP Resolution: RES/CVP/BR/II/04/2012.
357. Finally, he presented the project to strengthen the Official Veterinary Services, which is based on the OIE PVS Tool, with the active participation of the CVP in terms of the actions tending to the improvement of Veterinary Services.
358. He recommended visiting the CVP website for more information, www.cvpconosur.org

Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVET)

359. Dr Kathian Hackshaw explained that the Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVET) is a collaboration network of 32 Veterinary Services, research institutes, diagnostic laboratories, universities and regional/international organisations whose purpose is to improve animal and veterinary public health in the Caribbean region. She said that CaribVET's six thematic working groups interact regularly to provide regional synergies. The aim of the epidemiology and swine diseases working groups is to improve classical swine fever (CSF) surveillance and control in the Caribbean. Enhanced collaboration with the laboratory working group (to improve diagnostic capacities and develop the principles of quality assurance and laboratory management in Caribbean laboratories) has greatly improved regional coordination of CSF inter-laboratory assays with Reference Laboratories in Europe. Joint work with the epidemiology working group had led to the development of a tailored framework for the qualitative risk assessment of CSF and Teschen disease introduction. She suggested visiting the CaribVET website for more information on activities and achievements, <http://www.caribvet.net/en/caribvet>.

Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

360. The Representative of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) provided an overview of CARICOM, saying that the Community's legal framework is enshrined in the (international) Treaty of Chaguaramas. She added that CARICOM is a regional economic integration organisation designed to help its Members to achieve sustainable economic competitiveness under good governance and enhance the welfare of all its peoples. She reported on the work of the Agricultural Development Unit of the CARICOM Secretariat with respect to developing an effective animal health system at the regional level and the role of CARICOM Chief Veterinary Officers in regional and international animal health issues.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

361. Dr Cedric Lazarus, Livestock Development Officer at the FAO Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean, reported that, through its regional and sub-regional offices in the Americas, and working with other partners, FAO continues to assist the countries of the Americas in implementing their animal health programmes, particularly for the control and eradication of transboundary animal diseases. FAO provides technical assistance and institutional support for the control and eradication of foot and mouth disease and classical swine fever in South America and for the control and eradication of classical swine fever in Central America and the Caribbean. In terms of emerging and re-emerging diseases, such as H1N1 influenza virus, FAO's assistance across the Americas has been geared towards advocacy, capacity-building and strengthening of official Veterinary Services, including support to improve veterinary laboratory diagnostic capabilities and field surveillance at both national and regional levels.

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

362. Dr Ricardo Molins elaborated on the various activities conducted by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), saying that there was continued collaboration with the Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP) in the Southern Region, where an online epidemiology course for official Veterinary Services had been held jointly with the Buenos Aires Training Centre for Veterinary Services (CEBASEV) and the University of California-Davis. A project is under way to establish a network of research laboratories in bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis in collaboration with the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA). In the Andean Region, an IICA project seeks to harmonise the tuberculosis and brucellosis surveillance systems of official Veterinary Services and services responsible for human health (health ministries),

under the “One Health” concept. Another project to be developed in the Andean Region, in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Organization (IAEA), will focus on screwworm eradication. In the Central Region, IICA is implementing a project for the establishment of a regional virtual school for food inspection, having been part of the governance structure (which includes the Chief Veterinary Officers and other agencies involved in food safety control) in seven Central American countries and the Dominican Republic. In the Caribbean Region, it is expected to launch an extensive (four-year) project to strengthen all systems of sanitary and phytosanitary measures, which will include support for the Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVET) and its working groups, as well as the development of legislation and of national agencies for agricultural health and food safety and the respective regional agency (Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency [CAHFSA]). At the hemispheric level, in November 2012 IICA signed a technical cooperation agreement with the Latin American Poultry Association (ALA), and will provide support for the OIE standard-setting process via its virtual platform.

Federation of Rural Associations of MERCOSUR (FARM)

363. Dr Carlos Rivaci Sperotto, Representative of the Federation of Rural Associations of MERCOSUR (FARM), mentioned the importance of women’s increasing presence in senior positions, citing the Presidents of Argentina and Brazil, the President of the Agriculture and Livestock Confederation of Brazil (CNA) and Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, President of the World Assembly of OIE Delegates.
364. FARM is the only body representing MERCOSUR producers and women have a strong presence in it, receiving full support for their activities.
365. He acknowledged the efforts of Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE and Dr Luis Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, who are always on hand to support FARM activities. He also commended the effective work of Dr Carlos Correa, outgoing President of the OIE.
366. He welcomed the opportunity given to him by the Commission to describe FARM activities.

Regional International Organization for Animal and Plant Health (Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria [OIRSA])

367. Dr Abelardo de Gracia, Regional Coordinator for Animal Health at the Regional International Organisation for Animal and Plant Health (Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria [OIRSA]), said that throughout 2012 efforts had been made to secure access for OIRSA member countries to different markets for animals and animal products and by-products by strengthening their Veterinary Services.
368. He reported that, in the area of cattle health, work was being done on brucellosis and tuberculosis, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and foot and mouth disease prevention, harmonising regional standards for cattle traceability, as well as animal health requirements for the movement of animals to fairs, shows and competitions in the Central American isthmus.
369. He explained that the resurgence of classical swine fever in Guatemala had led to the establishment of a control campaign jointly with the authorities, and to enhanced epidemiological surveillance in neighbouring countries.
370. He added that the first diploma in bee health for producers had been established, with the first diploma for technicians to be established next year, and a diploma in animal welfare expected to follow in the future.

371. A manual of good practices for the use of veterinary drugs has been produced. In the area of aquatic animal health, training continues in the immunology and pathology of farmed shrimp.
372. In the area of poultry health, he reported that the regional contingency plan for avian influenza and Newcastle disease had been updated.
373. He concluded by mentioning inter-agency coordination, saying that OIRSA is working with the OIE and FAO to review and update secondary veterinary legislation, in accordance with the points made at the meeting in Djerba, Tunisia, in December 2010. It will be working with FAO and PAHO on campaigns to control and eradicate brucellosis, tuberculosis and rabies. With the support of the United States Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the University of Iowa, the first regional emergency response group for transboundary diseases is expected to be up and running within a year.

European Commission (EC)

374. Dr Moritz Klemm, Representative of the European Commission, began his presentation by saying that the European Commission enjoys observer status at the OIE. He added that cooperation between the European Commission and the OIE dated back many years and was increasing all the time. He said that the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme in the 1970s and 1980s represented a great step forward. This special relationship between the European Commission and the OIE was formalised through an exchange of letters in 2004 between the then European Commissioner for Health and Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE. Since then, the European Commission has collaborated increasingly with the OIE, in terms of both technical expertise and financial support.
375. Dr Klemm mentioned that, in recent years, the OIE has been formally dedicated to promoting the good governance of Veterinary Services via the OIE PVS Pathway. The European Commission supports these and other activities through the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, to which the European Union (EU), in particular the European Commission, is the biggest contributor.
376. He cited examples of collaboration between the European Commission and the OIE, including European Commission co-financing of OIE regional and global conferences and workshops for OIE national focal points, and OIE involvement in major regional programmes for animal health (Africa for example), also co-financed by the European Commission, as well as a joint communication activities during World Veterinary Year 2011, some of which have been repeated ever since.
377. To facilitate these contributions and as a sign of mutual trust, in June 2010 the European Commission and OIE signed a long-term framework agreement laying down the administrative and financial arrangements for cooperation, including the process of European Commission financing for OIE activities.
378. Dr Klemm also reported on a Memorandum of Understanding, which was concluded in 2011 to foster still closer cooperation between the two organisations. This Memorandum provides a point of contact between the European Commission and the OIE for technical and specialist matters and also facilitates day-to-day relations between the European Commission and the OIE.

379. Dr Klemm concluded by mentioning some rather positive practical examples of this wide cooperation, including the participation of the European Commission in the Advisory Committee of the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund and in the Regional and Global Steering Committees of the Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), and OIE participation in the Animal Health Advisory Committee of the EU Advisory Group on the Food Chain and Animal and Plant Health.

World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)

380. Dr Juan Carlos Murillo, Representative of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), began his presentation by stating that WSPA is a non-profit organisation with its headquarters in London and offices in 17 countries around the world. He said that WSPA works on programmes in all countries of the Americas and has offices in Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica and the United States of America. It also has a formal agreement with the OIE and consultative status with the United Nations and European Council.

381. He added that WSPA promotes animal welfare through key programmes, such as the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare, humane sustainable agriculture, rabies control strategies through the WSPA Red Collar Campaign, and education and communication activities to raise awareness of animal welfare and facilitate knowledge-sharing via its Animal Mosaic website.

382. Dr Murillo said that WSPA works with the OIE both internationally and regionally, having collaborated actively on the OIE Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, as well as on developing the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for the Americas.

383. Dr Murillo concluded by saying that the WSPA disaster management department works on disaster risk reduction issues around the world, in addition to carrying out emergency response operations to safeguard livelihoods and food security. WSPA's strategy for success is to work with all stakeholders in each country, including producers, civil society, community leaders and other groups, as well as government agencies, such as departments of animal health. Recent examples of WSPA disaster response programmes include the earthquake in Haiti in 2010 and the drought in Chihuahua, Mexico, throughout most of 2012. In line with WSPA's strategy, in February 2013 WSPA will coordinate a virtual forum on floods and animal livestock on the "Desaprender" web platform (www.desaprender.org, for all interested individuals and organisations).

Discussions

384. Dr Carlos Correa, Delegate of Uruguay, asked the WSPA representative about procedures for the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare by the United Nations. More specifically, he said that the latest revision of the Declaration did not explicitly include the use of OIE standards as a basis, although it had been included in a previous version.

385. Dr Juan Carlos Murillo answered by saying that no change had been made to the latest revisions and that the concept of adherence to OIE standards had been maintained.

**Veterinary Public Health Program of the Pan American Health Organization
Pan American Center for Foot and Mouth Disease (PANAFTOSA)**

386. Dr José Naranjo of the Veterinary Public Health Unit of the World Health Organization's Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), based at the Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA), spoke of current technical cooperation and support efforts by the PAHO Veterinary Public Health Program to assist countries in the Americas Region. He identified three main lines of action: zoonoses, food safety and the Hemispheric Program for the Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease (PHEFA).
387. He described the main activities relating to technical cooperation on zoonoses: a programme to eradicate rabies transmitted by dogs, which was in the final stages of eradication, as well as cooperation projects between countries on leishmaniasis, bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis, distomatosis and leptospirosis.
388. In the area of food safety, he said the emphasis was placed on cooperation in capacity-building for integrated surveillance and risk analysis of foodborne diseases. High priority was also given to cooperation in creating and building capacity for integrated health/agriculture monitoring of antimicrobial resistance.
389. He reported on progress with the PHEFA program, which is currently launching the PHEFA Plan of Action 2011-2020, highlighting the challenges facing eradication, both in countries and zones that still have endemic circulation of the virus, and in zones previously recognised as free with vaccination but where new FMD outbreaks have occurred. He concluded by stressing that the experience, knowledge and political support gained by PHEFA would represent an important contribution by the Region to the FAO/OIE Global FMD Control Strategy.

**Application for designation of OIE Collaborating Centres and presentation of the
Centro Buenos Aires para la Capacitación de los Servicios Veterinarios (CEBASEV)**

Buenos Aires Training Centre for Veterinary Services (CEBASEV)

390. Dr Gabriel Mario Capitelli made a presentation on behalf of the Buenos Aires Training Centre for Veterinary Services (CEBASEV), an OIE Collaborating Centre formed by Argentina's National Health and Agrifood Quality Service (SENASA) and its National Agricultural Technology Institute (INTA).
391. He said that CEBASEV's primary mission is to provide continuing training to the staff of Spanish-speaking Veterinary Services and other public and private national, regional and international organisations that so require, in accordance with its approval as a Collaborating Centre by the 74th OIE General Session.
392. He added that CEBASEV's specific mandate is to: act as a centre of research, expertise, standardisation and dissemination of methodologies within its fields of competence; propose and develop methods to facilitate the international harmonisation of regulations applicable to animal disease surveillance and control; make consultants and experts available to the OIE; promote scientific and technical training for staff from OIE Member Countries; organise scientific meetings; coordinate scientific and technical studies in collaboration with other laboratories and organisations; and form networks with complementary national or international centres in such areas as epidemiology, management, certification, auditing, quality implementation, biosafety, hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) procedures, risk analysis and diagnostic methods and procedures for animal diseases and zoonoses.

Application for the designation of an “OIE Collaborating Centre for Laboratory Animal Welfare and Science”, under the responsibility of the Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources (ILAR) of the United States of America

393. Dr Michael David, representative of the United States of America, made a presentation on the proposal for a “Collaborating Centre for Laboratory Animal Welfare and Science”, under the responsibility of the Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources (ILAR) in the United States of America in relation with the United States National Academy of Sciences.
394. The Delegate of Uruguay, Dr Carlos Correa Messuti, was in favour of a Collaborating Centre with a specific focus on the welfare of laboratory animals. However, he was concerned at the proposed name for the Collaborating Centre, which could lead to confusion owing to the general term “science” at the end.
395. Dr Hugo Fragozo Sánchez, Delegate of Mexico, agreed with the Delegate of Uruguay.
396. Dr Simone Titus, Delegate of Trinidad and Tobago, proposed an alternative name for the Collaborating Centre (“in science” instead of “and science”).
397. Dr David explained that the scope of ILAR includes the provision of scientific information on the appropriate and ethical use of laboratory animals in applied research, as welfare and ethical use are the cornerstones for obtaining valid scientific results in research on animals.
398. This explanation was accepted as justification for keeping the proposed name.
399. Dr Guilherme Marques, Delegate of Brazil, congratulated the countries on their presentations and reminded the Commission that Brazil had sent the OIE a proposal for two Reference Centres, more specifically, one for the diagnosis of swine diseases²⁴, and the other for the diagnosis of bovine viral diseases²⁵. Dr Marques asked for these proposals to be distributed to Delegates for evaluation and endorsement.
400. The OIE Director General, Dr Bernard Vallat, said that the proposal for a Collaborating Centre in the United States of America had already been reviewed by the relevant Commission, and that the designated title reflected both the criteria suggested by ILAR the National Academy of Science of the United States of America and the view of the OIE Commission that conducted the review.
401. Furthermore, he drew the attention of Delegates to the importance of adopting what will be the first Collaborating Centre focusing on laboratory animal welfare in the world.
402. Regarding the comment by the Delegate of Brazil, he reminded both the Delegate and the rest of the Commission, that the applications mentioned by the Delegate were being evaluated by the OIE using current procedures and that the official procedure would be accelerated.
403. The Regional Commission endorsed furthering the adoption process of the new “Collaborating Centre for Laboratory Animal Welfare and Science” (the name originally proposed).

²⁴ Swine Section, Department of Animal Medicine, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul – UFRGS, Porto Alegre

²⁵ Laboratory of Bovine Viruses (LVB), Center for Research and Development of Animal Health (CPDSA), Instituto Biológico - SP, São Paulo.

Date, venue and selection of the technical item for the 22nd OIE Regional Conference for the Americas

404. The President of the Commission asked the Delegates present whether any country wished to host the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas.
405. The Delegate of Mexico expressed his country's desire to organise the next Conference, to be held in November 2014. The precise dates will be defined at the next meeting of the Regional Commission at the OIE General Session in May 2013.
406. The proposal of Mexico was adopted unanimously.
407. It was explained that, as is customary, one of the technical items will include responses by Members of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to a questionnaire to be prepared on a specific item. This item will be decided at the next meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to take place during the OIE General Session in May 2013. The other item will be on a topical issue to be proposed by the Regional Commission and approved by the Regional Commission at the OIE General Session preceding the Conference, that is to say, the May 2014 session. This item will not include a questionnaire.

Discussion of recommendations

408. Draft Recommendations 1 and 2 on the Conference's two technical items were presented to the participants and put forward for discussion. Some amendments were proposed to both draft recommendations, which will be corrected immediately and presented for final adoption at the Thursday session.
409. Dr Vallat reminded the Delegates that the recommendations adopted at the Conference will be presented for adoption by the next World Assembly of Delegates in May 2013, making it binding on the OIE to implement these recommendations.
410. Before concluding, Dr Vallat thanked non-member countries for attending the Conference and urged them to consider joining the OIE as soon as possible. All that with the strong support of the OIE.

Wednesday 28 November 2012

Professional and cultural visit

411. The participants enjoyed the professional and cultural trip organised by the host country. They expressed their gratitude to the trip's organisers for the warm hospitality.

Thursday 29 November 2012

Outcomes of the Global Conference on animal welfare in Malaysia

412. Dr Luis Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, reported on the Third OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare, which took place in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), from 6 to 8 November 2012, attended by a total of 300 participants from 74 countries, including OIE National Focal Points for Animal Welfare, OIE Delegates, experts, and representatives from non-governmental and international organisations.

413. Dr Barcos commented on the discussions, which had enabled private sector participants, including organisations that develop technical specifications (commonly referred to as private standards) to learn more about the process for adopting OIE standards.
414. He also mentioned the recommendations adopted by the Conference, including relevant aspects of the implementation of OIE standards and the need for private technical standards to take into account OIE standards, as well as the concepts of equivalence and reciprocity. He also highlighted the importance given by the recommendations to Veterinary Services acting as the Competent Authority, and the need for them to be provided with appropriate legislation and national plans for animal welfare.
415. Dr Barcos added that at the Conference it had been proposed to support the United Nations Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare, emphasising the importance of using OIE standards as a reference. The development and implementation of regional strategies and a global strategy based on OIE standards had been promoted, as well as the involvement of the OIE Regional Representations working together with OIE Members and regional organisations. He ended by stressing the importance of the OIE continuing to set standards on animal welfare, giving priority to broilers and dairy cattle.

Presentation and approval of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy

416. Dr Luis Barcos presented a proposal for a Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for the Americas, one aim of which would be to provide an integrated regional approach and an effective plan for implementing OIE standards in the region.
417. He explained that the Strategy sought to promote and ensure respect for animal welfare in the Americas, so that improvements in animal welfare would be compatible with OIE standards, allowing the Americas to play an active role in setting and updating OIE standards on animal welfare.
418. The Strategy provides guidelines for developing action plans in Member Countries to: enable them to participate in setting and implementing OIE standards and guidelines; guide the future development of animal welfare policies, based on a regional consultative approach; help them to set animal welfare priorities; and provide a framework for cooperation between Member Countries and stakeholders in promoting and advancing animal welfare in the region.
419. The Strategy was approved with a few amendments requested by the Member Countries.

Discussions

420. The Delegate of Haiti thanked Dr Barcos for his presentation. He stressed that the definition of Member Countries' cultural and socioeconomic status should be a key component of the plan, since they could hinder the implementation of OIE standards on animal welfare. He asked for further details on how to implement OIE standards when social and economic factors are an obstacle.
421. Dr Vallat pointed out that all regional plans had to comply with the OIE standards adopted at the General Session and that these standards had to be taken as they stand. He explained that so far OIE had not adopted standards on cultural events such as cock fighting and bullfighting. He added that this was not an issue that could be covered by regional plans at present and that only the European Union had detailed legislation on cultural traditions.

422. Dr Michael David, Representative of the United States, welcomed all the efforts made to prepare the first draft of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy. Dr David considered that the Strategy provided a favourable framework for public-private interaction, highlighting that the OIE was working in collaboration with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) to ensure that standards by and for the private sector are in line with OIE standards, thereby promoting private sector regulations that comply with OIE standards.
423. Dr Brian Evans, Delegate of Canada, emphasised the importance of coordinating the work of the regional offices and National Focal Points for Animal Welfare to ensure the success of the Regional Strategy. He proposed a review of the Strategy every two years during the training of new Delegates, instead of every five years as initially proposed, as many Delegates moved to other positions in less than five years. Dr Evans also suggested exploring the possibility of publishing information on the implementation of the Strategy and examples of its implementation via the Regional Representation's web site.
424. Dr Barcos agreed that the publication of practical examples of Strategy implementation would be an excellent means for raising awareness. He confirmed that the information would be published on the web site of the Regional Representation.
425. The Delegate of Brazil supported a review of the Strategy every two years, while the Delegate of Barbados considered that it should be reviewed every three years.
426. Dr John Clifford, Delegate of the United States and President of the Regional Commission, recommended a review at alternate Regional Conferences, in other words every four years. This proposal was endorsed by the Delegates and included in the document.
427. Dr Barcos added that a progress report on the implementation of the Regional Strategy could be submitted to plenary sessions of the Regional Commission every two years. This proposal was adopted by the Commission.
428. Finally, in line with what had been discussed, the addition of a new item was proposed and adopted, identified as activity 2.2.3 of Goal 2, Objective 2: "To encourage National Focal Points in developing networks for exchanges on good practices".

Adoption of the Draft Final Report and Recommendations 1 and 2

429. Dr Bernard Vallat explained the procedures to adopt the report of the Conference as well as the recommendations. The Delegates are allowed to comment or make suggestions which are taken into account during the Conference, but additional comments on the report, received by 15 December 2012 at the OIE Headquarters, will also be considered. However, the recommendations need to be adopted during the session and cannot be changed later on.
430. The report was adopted with few minor amendments.
431. Recommendations 1 and 2 were also adopted.
432. The traditional motion of thanks for the host country was read by Dr. John Clifford, Delegate of the United States of America and President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, on behalf of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, the OIE Director General and all participants.

Closing ceremony

433. Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, OIE Delegate of Germany and President of the World Assembly of Delegates, thanked the Government of Barbados once again for hosting the Conference and for the warm hospitality shown to the participants.
434. Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE, thanked the Government and Veterinary Services of Barbados for the excellent organisation of the Conference.
435. He encouraged countries in the region to ensure that OIE objectives were achieved, in particular those relating to strengthening Veterinary Services and improving the animal health situation in both the region and worldwide.
436. He said that strengthening Veterinary Services was crucial to achieving the objectives of the region and the OIE. He also stressed the importance of OIE international standards and solidarity between countries.
437. Dr Vallat commended the high standard of technical presentations and discussions, which had ensured that the Conference objectives were met.
438. Finally, the Director General thanked the entire OIE team for their support and their collaboration with representatives of the Government of Barbados, which had been a key factor in the success of the Conference.
439. Dr Mark Trotman, Delegate of the host country and Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, said that it had been a privilege for Barbados to host the Conference as it had provided his country with an opportunity to welcome OIE senior officials, OIE Delegates and the Chief Veterinary Officers of countries in the region, representatives of international and regional organisations, veterinarians and representatives of the private sector and industry.
440. He thanked Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE, and his staff from OIE Headquarters in Paris, the Regional Representation in Buenos Aires and the Sub-Regional Representation in Panama for their dedicated support in making the Conference a success.
441. Finally Dr Trotman declared the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas closed at 11.30 a.m.

Appendices.../...

Speech of Dr Karin Schwabenbauer
Delegate of Germany and President of the World Assembly of Delegates
21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas
Bridgetown, Barbados – 26-29 November 2012

Honourable Permanent Secretary,
OIE Director General,
Delegate of Barbados,
President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas,
Members of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas,
Delegates of Members Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas,
Representatives of international and regional organisations,
OIE Regional Representative for the Americas,
OIE Sub Regional Representative for Central America,
Distinguished guests,

It is a great pleasure for me to be here in Bridgetown with you. It is my first time in this region, and the warm welcome in this beautiful part of the world was overwhelming!

Today, the regional conferences and the work of the Regional Commissions are of major importance. This is the place where veterinarians from countries across the continent meet on a regular basis and where they can get to know each other better and jointly work towards solving problems. In the age of globalisation and in light of the financial crisis with all the insecurities it entails, this is of particular importance for our field as well.

The mission of our World Organisation for Animal Health has been significantly broadened since its foundation: in addition to animal health in the strict sense of the term, it now also covers animal welfare and food safety at the level of primary production. What is more, the Organisation has been working to promote veterinary services across the world for some years now. The PVS is a recognised instrument that facilitates a (self-)assessment of veterinary services. The Organisation is now also focusing on veterinary legislation as essential tool for the veterinary services and more recently on veterinary education in order to improve the basis for this evaluation. We will hear a presentation on the latter from our General Director later today. And there will be the 3rd Global Conference on this topic in this region, namely in Brazil, next year.

This year's topics will once again provide a good platform to exchange expertise. Disaster management has become a tremendous task in the last decade; events like "Sandy", but also earthquakes like in Haiti and other natural disasters present a huge challenge for the countries and regions affected. And the specific needs of veterinary services are often not considered in an adequate manner. I am very much looking forward to the presentation this afternoon!

I am also curious to hear something on Innovative Strategies for strengthening Regional Animal Health Networks – something we know about within the EU, as the occurrence of the Schmallenberg virus last year in Europe served as a reminder to us all that new diseases can occur unexpectedly. The pathogen was comparatively harmless this time, but it may well be different next time. This incident has once again reminded us that we must not restrict our monitoring mechanisms to what is familiar to us but that we must remain prepared for everything by using modern diagnostic technologies. And that we have to work in collaboration with our neighbours in full transparency, if we want to tackle efficiently disease outbreaks.

Allow me to say one more thing as the newly elected President of the OIE Council. At that time I had explained, that I would like to put forward four major points:

- Modernisation of the Organisation
- Transparency of information and procedures
- Solidarity among the regions and the countries
- Promotion of women in our Organisation.

These points seem to me crucial for the future of the OIE in a changing world.

In the Council meeting held in October this year all topics were addressed:

- The progress in the modernisation of the Budgetary and Accounting management, the possible alignment of the remuneration and pension situation of our staff in the regional representations with general international procedures.
- The new WAHIS 2, enabling better notification of animal disease events. The distribution of the major outcomes of the Council's discussions to the Delegates.
- Improving the procedure and communication with applicant countries for recognition of their animal health status.
- Monitoring the administrative supervision of OIE-Regional Representations as one important step for a more equal distribution of resources as needed. A functional operating procedure for the accession of new members to the OIE.
- Clarifying the collaboration with other institutions, especially with the FAO and WHO.
- Promotion of the participation of women and younger professionals in the organisation.

I am happy to report back, that the new Council is very actively engaged and the Bureau, especially the DG, is very supportive in this process.

But we all have to consider, that all activities, progress and changes discussed need a strong support of the countries! The Members of the OIE are the one who are in a position to make it happen. To be successful, Council and Bureau need the active support of the Members.

Another crucial point is the financing of our activities. Despite of the financial crisis we have to realise, that the different activities of the OIE need a sustainable financial support. The Council asked therefore the DG to prepare a document based on which a proposal to increase the statutory contribution can be discussed in view of the next General Session.

With respect to the promotion of women in our Organisation – this is a topic that is very close to my heart, as you know -, I started an initiative during the Regional Conference in Europe, inviting all female participants in the conference for a cocktail. I have repeated this action also here in Bridgetown and I am very happy and grateful that our host, Dr. Mark Trotmann was immediately very supportive, providing the necessary space (and a room!).

This is aiming to increase the diversity in our Organisation and to gain the specific experience women have, for the benefit of the OIE! The first step on this path is to give the women a chance to get to know each other and to discuss ways to step up involvement in our organisation.

We will meet tonight at 6.30 p.m. before dinner. I hope for a good turn-out and support from the delegations.

I would now like to wish us all a productive conference, with many interesting discussions and plenty of new findings. But let us also enjoy the more informal part of the conference; I hope that you will find the time to talk to colleagues who you do not see that often. And please don't forget to enjoy the scenic beauty of this wonderful place!

Speech of Dr Bernard Vallat
Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas
Bridgetown, Barbados – 26-29 November 2012

Honourable Permanent Secretary,
Delegate of Barbados,
President of the OIE,
President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas,
Members of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas,
Delegates of Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas,
Representatives of international and regional organisations,
OIE Regional Representative for the Americas,
OIE Sub Regional Representative for Central America,
Distinguished guests,

It is an honour and a privilege for me to welcome each of you to attend the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas.

I would like to thank especially the Government of Barbados for proposing to host this important Conference, and for the warm welcome we have received since we arrived in this beautiful country. In particular, I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Michael King, Permanent Secretary, Minister of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management of Barbados, to Dr Mark Trotman, Delegate of Barbados, to our colleagues from the Veterinary Services of Barbados, to the OIE staff, to our Regional and Sub Regional Representatives for all the efforts made in preparing this event and to the Member Countries having supported the event.

Our world is changing very rapidly, unprecedented movements of animals and people enable pathogens to colonise the entire planet and to move faster than ever. Health risks for humans, domestic animals and wildlife are changing very quickly accordingly and, at the same time, the awareness of the need to safeguard biodiversity is, fortunately, increased on all continents.

Faced with these challenges, global, regional and national health and environmental policies must be reconsidered, and new tools, as well as new ways of cooperation and synergies between stakeholders and governments, must be found. Veterinary Services must be ready to face those key changes. Thus, the OIE core mandate which is “the improvement of animal health, veterinary public health and animal welfare worldwide” must be implemented in this context.

OIE Regional Conferences are held every two years in America and other regions; and it is with great honour that I will accompany you through this important week of activities dedicated to the Regional Commission for the Americas. Indeed, the OIE considers the Regional Conferences to be of utmost significance and value, and heralds them as one of the key links with our Member Countries. They testify the OIE’s desire to bring together all of its Members in order to tackle animal health issues globally and contribute to resolve all issues facing Veterinary Services worldwide.

Global control of animal diseases is linked with strong alliances, starting at intergovernmental Agencies level: the OIE, the United Nations (represented mainly by FAO), WHO, the community of international donors supporting animal health programmes, Regional organisations and all Member Countries.

Global control of animal diseases is impossible without Good Governance of national Veterinary Services. Good governance includes appropriate legislation, appropriate veterinary education programmes, appropriate human and financial resources allocated to Veterinary and Livestock Services, and finally relevant public-private partnerships applicable to the overall veterinary domain.

As you already know, the OIE work programme is dictated by five-year strategic plans developed in collaboration with the OIE Members and partners and adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates. We are currently half-way through the 5th Strategic Plan and I can assure you that the implementation of this plan is going well.

The OIE Global Programme for strengthening Veterinary Services, mainly based on the OIE PVS Tool for the evaluation of performance of Veterinary Services, has advanced significantly and had largely passed the symbolic number of 120 OIE Members involved in the process. Thus, it is now of paramount importance that countries take ownership of PVS Pathway outcomes at national, regional and global levels, as reflected in the reports of OIE PVS initial evaluation, follow-up, PVS Gap Analysis and Legislation missions.

Great efforts have been made by the OIE, thanks to the support of donors, to help, on request, Member Countries in building the capacity of their Veterinary Services. The OIE's goal of supporting to build the capacity of Veterinary Services with appropriate legislation and the necessary human, physical and financial resources could be achieved only by countries taking ownership of OIE PVS Pathway outcomes and by international solidarity.

Since the OIE PVS Tool was introduced in 2006, the OIE, with the authorization of the countries, had been distributing PVS Pathway mission reports to governments, donors and other relevant partners. The OIE also currently assigns experts to assist, on request, countries in organising roundtables with senior officials in their governments involved in budget allocations to Veterinary Services. If needed, donors and international and regional organisations interested in supporting Veterinary Service capacity-building are also invited to attend these roundtables. During these roundtables, the OIE experts assist the Veterinary Services in explaining the PVS Pathway outcomes and their possible use in the improvement of the Veterinary Services.

Recently, the OIE had also been assisting countries in distributing the PVS Pathway reports through diplomatic channels to national senior officials having the capacity to support Veterinary Service. Also, the OIE would soon be drafting a guide on the ownership and use of the PVS Pathway reports for internal and external advocacy on financing the compliance with OIE standards on quality of Veterinary Services.

The OIE has also established, since many year now, a continuous information and training programme for new OIE Delegates, as well as for their 8 nominees as national Focal Points for animal diseases notification, wildlife, aquatic animals, food safety, veterinary products, animal welfare communication and laboratories. This programme is being implemented successfully in all regions in collaboration with all the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, under the coordination of OIE Headquarters.

The support provided by our Regional and Sub Regional Representations also has an important impact on the development of OIE activities and the success of the Strategic Plan in the region. The OIE Representations need your permanent collaboration in order to provide regionally adapted services to OIE Members so that they may strengthen the compliance with OIE standards.

Referring to the agenda of the Conference, the particular interest of the technical items presented during this Conference will undoubtedly contribute to the success of this important event for the region.

Two technical items will be presented, the technical item one (1) regarding "Disaster management: the role and preparedness of Veterinary Services" will analyse the potential actions and capability of Veterinary Services in reducing and managing the risk of disasters that can affect the economy, animal health and welfare and veterinary public health.

The technical item two (2) referring to the "Innovative strategies for strengthening regional animal health networks" will provide some examples of the work being done in the Caribbean regarding animal health network and highlighting the key factors that regional animal health

networks need to consider to tackle nowadays challenges, increase cost-efficiency and work towards ensuring network sustainability and benefit for diseases prevention and control policies.

The programme of the Conference will also leads us to speak on a topic of current and major importance, namely the OIE policies on Veterinary Education in the region.

The quality of veterinary education is not optimal in many Member Countries including in your region. Veterinary education needs thus to be strengthened globally and to do so, the OIE has recently published “recommendations on the competencies of graduating veterinarians (Day 1 graduates) to assure national Veterinary Services of quality”.

In that context, I am pleased to announce you that, the OIE is planning, in collaboration with the Government and VSB of Brazil, to organise a Global Conference on Veterinary Education and Veterinary Statutory Bodies in Brazil in December of 2013.

The Conference will also cover very important topics such as the update of global standards for terrestrial and aquatic animal health and welfare.

As you can realise, the following days will be thus quite busy and I am sure that the results of your recommendations will be of great importance for the region as well as for the 178 OIE Member Countries, as they will be proposed for endorsement on the next OIE World Assembly.

To conclude, I would like to once again express, on behalf of all participants, my most sincere gratitude to the Barbados authorities for having invited us to Bridgetown, to all our Veterinary colleagues of the country for the very warm welcome we received. I am strongly confident that this twenty-first Conference of the Regional Commission will be a success.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Dr Bernard Vallat
OIE Director General

Speech of Mr Michael King
Permanent Secretary, Minister of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource
Management of Barbados

21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas
Bridgetown, Barbados – 26-29 November 2012

Director General
President and other officials of the OIE,
Ministers of Government,
Chief Agricultural Officer,
Specially invited guests,
Members of the Press,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Morning.

It is indeed a distinct pleasure and a signal honour to address you this morning at this opening ceremony which marks the start of the 21st Conference of the World Organisation for Animal Health Regional Commission for the Americas.

The hosting of this 21st Conference in Barbados is indeed historic since it represents the first occasion that it is being held in the English Speaking Caribbean which is an indication of the high esteem in which Barbados is held by the World Organisation for Animal Health Regional Commission for the Americas. At the outset I wish to extend congratulations to all parties who have worked assiduously over the weeks and months to convene a Conference of this magnitude. Your tenacity must be commended.

Ladies and gentlemen, the World Organisation for Animal Health Regional Commission for the Americas was created a mere six years after the end of the 1st World War with a mandate to fight the spread of infectious animal diseases not only on a local level in Europe but on a global level. Its mandate has always been international in outlook.

Since it was established, the OIE has played a vital and pivotal role in its capacity as the solitary international reference organisation for animal health, thus, enjoying international recognition and benefiting from interactive teamwork with the Veterinary Services of all its Member Countries. Due to the close link between animal health and animal welfare, the OIE, is considered by its Member Countries, as the leading international organisation for animal welfare.

As the international organisation recognised by the World Trade Organisation for setting standards in animal health it is vital that the OIE pays special attention to the challenges faced by small vulnerable economies worldwide, the Caribbean being no exception.

In most international fora the primary focus is usually on the interaction between the developing world and large exporting countries such as Brazil, China and India, the voices and concerns of Small States are often not heard.

The OIE has not only given a voice and a hearing to the concerns of the Small States, but has provided us with both financial and human resources which has enabled us in Barbados to remain free of most of the various animal diseases which are of relevance to trade in animal and animal products.

The standards and guidelines set out in the two OIE animal Health Codes, i.e. the Terrestrial and Aquatic Health Codes, have proven to be invaluable in the development of surveillance programmes, border inspection procedures and animal welfare standards. They have also served as useful guidelines for the drafting of veterinary legislation.

Since 2005, the OIE has adopted eight welfare standards in the Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes. These standards cover:

- ❖ the transport of animals by air, land and sea;
- ❖ the slaughtering of animals for human consumption;
- ❖ the killing of animals for disease control purposes;
- ❖ the use of animals for research and education purposes;
- ❖ the control of stray dog populations;
- ❖ the welfare of farmed fish during transport; and
- ❖ the welfare of animals and beef cattle production systems.

The impact of the work of the OIE has also prevailed throughout the Caribbean region, hence the major achievement of the CaribVet Animal Health Network, which is the region's animal disease surveillance network. This network should be viewed as a model to follow in other sub-regions, since it demonstrates how cooperation can be achieved with a common objective in mind, such as preventing the spread of animal diseases, despite culturally and socio-economic barriers.

Locally, Barbados has embraced the mandate and philosophies of the OIE and has embarked on a number of initiatives which include but are not limited to:

- ❖ the development and implementation of sanitary import regulations, border controls, field surveillance and laboratory diagnoses;
- ❖ a national bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis survey in which 90% of our cattle farmers participated resulting in the conclusion that the island is free from these diseases;
- ❖ the eradication of the Tropical Bont Tick, making us the only Caribbean island once previously invested to achieve such a feat; and
- ❖ the continuity of an avian and swine disease surveillance programme.

Ladies and gentlemen, the work of the OIE will continue to be of importance to both developed and developing countries as they strive to achieve parity in the trade of animals and animal products whilst constantly reducing the spread of animal diseases globally.

The global market has expanded to the extent that we cannot remain complacent in dealing with how we conduct our trade relations in this area.

It is my conviction that over the course of this week the OIE's stated missions will be solidified and enhanced. It is my wish that through this Conference greater appreciation of the many challenges that Small States are confronted with, as they relate to matters such as market access to animal products and vulnerability to the incursion of animal diseases will be elucidated.

For it is the responsibility of all states to play their part in maintaining international animal health standards.

The Government and people of Barbados are fully appreciative of the OIE's decision to have this Conference in Barbados, since it is the Government's policy that the country be seen not only as a destination for hosting International Conferences of this nature and magnitude but also as a Small Island State which takes seriously its participation in regional and international organisations.

I wish you a very successful Conference and I thank you for your attention.

21st Conference of the OIE Regional commission for the Americas
Bridgetown, Barbados, 26 to 29 November 2012

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21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas
Bridgetown – Barbados 26 - 29 November 2012

AGENDA

1. Update on the OIE Vision.
2. Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas.
3. Presentation of the Council.
4. Report on the activities of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations for the Americas and proposal of activities for 2012-2013.
5. Update on OIE standards setting procedures
6. Technical item I: “Disaster management: the role and preparedness of Veterinary Services”.
7. OIE policies on Veterinary Education.
8. Animal health situation of Member Countries in the region during the first semester of 2012.
9. Technical item II: “Innovative strategies for strengthening regional animal health networks”.
10. Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission – Issues of interest to the Region - Challenges and proposals
11. Case study: Country experience in the implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway.
12. Outcomes of the Second OIE/FAO Global Conference on foot and mouth disease control and impacts.
13. OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission – Issues of interest to the Region- Challenges and proposals.
14. Presentations by international and regional organisations
15. Other matters:
 - Application for designation of OIE Collaborating Centres
 - Date and venue for the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas
 - Selection of the technical item for the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas
 - Outcomes of the Global Conference on animal welfare in Malaysia. Presentation and approval of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy

21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas
Bridgetown – Barbados 26 - 29 November 2012

PROGRAMME

SUNDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2012

16 h 00 – 19 h 00 Registration of participants and document distribution

MONDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2012

08 h 00 Registration of participants and document distribution (cont.)

09 h 00 Opening ceremony

- Dr Mark Trotman, Delegate of Barbados
- Dr John Clifford, Delegate of the United States of America and President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas
- Dr Luis O Barcos – OIE Regional Representative for the Americas
- Dr Karin Schwabenbauer - Delegate of Germany and President of the World Assembly of Delegates
- Dr Bernard Vallat, OIE Director General
- Representative of the Government –

09 h 45 Group Photo

10 h 00 Break

10 h 30 Election of the Conference Committee (Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and General Rapporteur)
Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Programme
Designation of Session Chairpersons and Rapporteurs (Technical items and animal health situation)

11 h 00 Update on the OIE Vision (Dr Bernard Vallat)

11 h 45 Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (Dr John Clifford)

Presentation of the Council (Dr Brian Evans, OIE Delegate for Canada)

12 h 00 Report on the activities of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations for the Americas and proposal of activities for 2012-2013 (Dr Luis Barcos/Dr Filiberto Frago)

12 h 15 Update on OIE standards setting procedures (Dr Alex Thiermann, President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code Commission)

12 h 45 Lunch

14 h 00 **Technical item I:** “Disaster management: the role and preparedness of Veterinary Services” (Dr Ernesto Fabián Mendoza Mainegra)

15 h 00 Discussion

15 h 30	OIE policies on Veterinary Education (Dr Bernard Vallat)
16 h 00	Discussion
16 h 15	Break (Preparation of the Recommendation 1 by the appointed group)
16 h 45	Animal health situation of Member Countries in the region during the first semester of 2012 (Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head OIE Animal Health Information Department)
17 h 30	Discussion
19 h 30	Reception hosted by the OIE

TUESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2012

09 h 00	Technical item II “Innovative strategies for strengthening regional animal health networks”. (Dr Thierry Lefrancois, CIRAD)
10 h 00	Discussion
10 h 30	Break (Preparation of the Recommendation 2 by the appointed group)
11 h 00	Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission – Issues of interest to the Region - Challenges and proposals (Dr. Víctor Manuel Vidal, Member of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission)
11 h 30	Case study: Country experience in the implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway (Costa Rica)
12 h 00	Outcomes of the Second OIE/FAO Global Conference on foot and mouth disease control and impacts (Dr John Clifford)
12 h 30	Lunch
14 h 00	OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission – Issues of interest to the Region- Challenges and proposals (Dr Alex Thiermann)
14 h 30	Presentations by international and regional organisations
15 h 30	Application for designation of OIE Collaborating Centres and presentation of the “Centro Buenos Aires para la Capacitación de los Servicios Veterinarios (CEBASEV)”
16 h 00	Break
16 h 30	Date, venue and selection of the technical item for the 22th OIE Regional Conference for the Americas
17 h 00	Discussion of recommendations
19 h 30	Reception hosted by the Government of Barbados

WEDNESDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2012

Technical and cultural visit

THURSDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2012

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 09 h 00 | Outcomes of the Global Conference on animal welfare in Malaysia. Presentation and approval of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (Dr Luis Barcos) |
| 09h30 | Adoption of the Draft Final Report and Recommendations 1 and 2 |
| 10h 30 | Break |
| 11 h 00 | Closing ceremony |

21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas
Bridgetown (Barbados), 26 to 29 November 2012

Recommendation No. 1

Disaster management: the role and preparedness of Veterinary Services

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The growing interdependence between humans, animals and the environment in which they live is causing global health problems whose resolution requires a more holistic approach;
2. Veterinary Services have the primary responsibility for ensuring early detection and rapid response to emerging and re-emerging animal diseases, meaning that they must be strengthened in their entirety to prepare them to face the challenges arising from globalisation and disaster hazards, including climate change and bioterrorism;
3. There is a link between natural and technological disasters and the incidence of emerging and re-emerging animal diseases, including zoonoses;
4. OIE Members in the Region view with concern the obstacles facing Member Countries and their under-preparedness to cope with disasters influencing the incidence of emerging and re-emerging animal diseases;
5. Veterinary Authorities should prepare their disaster reduction plans, including emergency plans, at all technical and administrative levels of the Veterinary Service and forge partnerships with other related sectors;
6. It is cheaper to prevent and prepare for the consequences of disasters and that the Veterinary Authority has little involvement in the prevention stage of the disaster reduction cycle;
7. Member Countries of the Region have requested the OIE to become more directly involved in the issue of disaster risk reduction and management; and
8. Member Countries are willing to cooperate on disaster risk reduction and management.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries identify and include in their priorities the human and material resources needed to avoid and reduce the impact of potential disasters on animal health and welfare;
2. Veterinary Services enhance their cooperation and coordination with all sectors involved in disaster risk reduction and management, in particular public health authorities, to prevent and control zoonoses;
3. Member Countries promote the exchange of expertise on disaster risk reduction and management among countries in the Region;
4. The OIE continue its support for building the technical, management and good governance capacity of Veterinary Services, in order to contribute to reducing the incidence of emerging and re-emerging diseases and to animal welfare through disaster risk reduction and management;

5. The OIE continue its work of supporting Members by means of programmes such as the evaluation of performance of Veterinary Services (OIE PVS Tool), PVS Gap Analysis, legislation missions and any other support via the PVS Pathway, in order to strengthen Veterinary Services, giving appropriate coverage to disaster risk reduction and management;
6. The OIE, through its Reference Centres and in collaboration with other international organisations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), and with relevant regional organisations, continue supporting Veterinary Authorities in developing surveillance, simulation models and other tools that take into account the relationship between natural and biological disasters, no matter whether it is of natural or intentional origin ;
7. The Director General of the OIE contact the Secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in order to promote interaction between the two organisations in the areas of animal health and welfare, and disaster risk reduction and management;
8. The OIE support Member Countries by creating opportunities for Veterinary Service training and capacity-building on disaster risk reduction and management, and by promoting the need for countries to share information and experience, with the emphasis on hazard, vulnerability and risk studies, and the development of disaster reduction plans;
9. The OIE consider disaster risk reduction and management in its veterinary curriculum development work; and
10. The OIE work with Cuba on finalising the establishment of an OIE Collaborating Centre on disaster risk reduction and management.

21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas
Bridgetown – Barbados 26 - 29 November 2012

Recommendation No. 2

Innovative strategies for strengthening regional animal health networks

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. Transboundary animal diseases have a great impact on animal and public health, on the economy of countries and on the societies in general;
2. The globalisation of trade, the intensification of animal and human movements, the environmental and climatic changes as well as many other socioeconomic factors greatly influence the spread of pathogens and vectors;
3. Surveillance and control of animal diseases, and especially transboundary diseases, must be a priority objective for any country and region;
4. There is a need to strengthen epidemiological surveillance systems and disseminate precise animal health data and scientific information on animal diseases and zoonoses, including their occurrence for any country and region;
5. The quality of the Veterinary Services is a critical factor to improve animal health and welfare, protect public health and contribute to food safety and food security through the implementation of OIE standards;
6. The OIE mandate includes collection and dissemination of information on the occurrence of animal diseases and on disease control measures, and adoption and publication of animal health and animal welfare standards worldwide;
7. The research and capacity building activities developed in tight interaction within regional networks in the field of animal health and veterinary public health represent an efficient mean to develop synergies and to share regional resources to reach common objectives;
8. The diversity and uniqueness of some countries can represent challenges to the implementation of regional animal health networks;
9. The management and conduct of efficient coordinated activities at regional or sub-regional level can represent a way to compensate for the lack of human and financial resources at national level;
10. CaribVET represents an interesting example of collaborative network bringing together Veterinary Services, academic institutions, regional and international organisations, diagnostic laboratories and research institutes(including OIE Reference Laboratories), providing technical support to improve animal health and veterinary public health in the Caribbean;
11. CaribVET has been officially recognised as the animal health network of the Caribbean since 2006 by the countries of the Caribbean region and by CARICOM, and has developed a letter of understanding with the OIE as well as a charter that has been adopted by all members; and
12. Animal Health is a key component of animal welfare.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. The strengthening of existing regional animal health networks, the development of new networks when relevant, and assisting countries in such an objective be promoted;
2. The members of regional animal health networks fulfil their commitment to share resources for the development of joint regional activities;
3. Multi-national animal health and veterinary public health programmes/projects conducted in a region or a sub-region be nested, when relevant, in a regional animal health network or that the said network be involved in their general coordination, for better relevance, efficiency and cost effectiveness of the activities concerned;
4. The involvement of universities, research institutes, OIE Reference Centres, interested stakeholders, and other relevant entities in regional animal health networks be encouraged so to enable the development of technical and scientific activities closely linked to the animal health and veterinary public health priorities of the region, where relevant;
5. Cooperation agreements and collaborations between the OIE and regional animal health networks be developed with a view to their sustainability, including activities such as joint training initiatives, scientific meetings, laboratory support, and raising awareness of OIE standards and guidelines;
6. The development of an economic cost-benefit analysis framework of regional or sub-regional animal health networks be encouraged in order to help in convincing politicians and other decision makers of the value of such networks;
7. Regional animal health networks consider the development of a charter and seek political endorsement by regional political organisations with a view to sustainability;
8. The development of an OIE process for the evaluation and recognition of regional animal health networks having appropriate legal basis, along the lines of that already existing for OIE Reference Centres, be envisaged and that tools for evaluating such networks be developed in cooperation with existing experienced regional networks, such as CaribVET;
9. International donors take into account of the efforts being undertaken to develop regional animal health network and consider the provisions of support to such networks; and
10. The OIE Members of the Region of the Americas contribute to the sustainability of regional animal health network by sharing best practices, information, knowledge, and resources.

21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas
Bridgetown – Barbados 26 - 29 November 2012

PRESS RELEASE

Barbados, 29 November 2012 – High-ranking officials from all OIE Member Countries in the Americas, including the Caribbean, and from national, regional and world organisations, attended the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, held in Barbados from 26 to 29 November 2012.

Involving Veterinary Services in managing disaster risk

During the Conference, the role and preparedness of national Veterinary Services in disaster management were discussed. Participants acknowledged that the Veterinary Authority should take a stronger leadership role towards animal health and welfare in risk reduction and management during disasters. They also highlighted issues relating to early warning and rapid response to biological risks during these events and to the implementation of efficient strategies in this field.

“Risks to animals and threats of contagious disease outbreaks when exceptional climatic events or disasters of other origins occur make crucial to promote a greater involvement of Veterinary Services in risk management during disasters. Public and private sector components of Veterinary Services must be able to respond to any disaster hazard everywhere,” declared OIE Director General, Dr Bernard Vallat.

The OIE was asked to lead further initiatives such as organising regional conferences and workshops, and producing specialised publications that will help its Member Countries to build technical expertise of their Veterinary Services in the area of risk reduction and management during disasters.

“Adopting an intersectoral and inter-regional approach will also help countries to achieve real progress in limiting impact of any risks during disasters.” Dr Vallat added.

Strengthening regional animal health networks

The Conference also addressed the challenges associated with the establishment of regional animal health networks e.g. cost-efficiency and sustainability. The Caribbean Animal Health Network – CaribVET, which has experienced successful development, was used as an example to highlight the different factors that could overtake these challenges:

- Giving a legal framework to the Network (definition of a Charter)
- Concluding formal cooperation agreements with international organisations
- Encouraging synergies with animal health projects conducted in the region
- Promoting collaboration between research, surveillance and capacity building

Participants agreed that regional animal health networks play a significant role in the strengthening of national and regional surveillance systems especially for developing countries and regions and should be established with a long-term vision. They aim to contribute to the harmonisation of animal disease surveillance and control activities in a region. To better tackle animal diseases and transboundary diseases in particular, such regional networks have been created in several other parts of the world.

Participants also adopted recommendations in risk during disasters and animal health networks to be submitted for final endorsement at the next OIE General Session in May 2013.

There was a consensus on acknowledging that Veterinary Education of quality together with effective Veterinary Statutory Bodies were cornerstones of good governance of public and private sector components of Veterinary Services. The need for establishing basic Veterinary Education requirements in all OIE Member Countries was also emphasised. The OIE currently develops recommendations on a core model veterinary curriculum relevant to all Member Countries. It will be submitted to the World Assembly of Delegates.

Participants welcomed the 3rd Global Conference on Veterinary Education and Veterinary Statutory Bodies which will be held in December 2013 in Brazil with the support of this country.

The Conference was kindly hosted by the Government of Barbados. It received the support of the OIE Headquarters and of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas. The Conference has been chaired by Dr Mark Trotman, Director of the Veterinary Services of Barbados.

Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for the Americas
Estrategia Regional de Bienestar Animal para las Américas
Final version for adoption – Versión final para adopción

Includes comments from: Argentina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, United States of America, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panamá, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Collaborating Centre on Animal Welfare Research - Uruguay

IICA

WSPA , ALA (Argentinian Industry Reppresentative)

Incluye comentarios de: Argentina, Canadá, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Estados Unidos de América, Guatemala, Jamaica, México, Panamá, Surinam, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Centro Colaborador en Investigación en bienestar animal - Uruguay

IICA

WSPA , ALA (Representante de la industria Argentina)

Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for the Americas
Estrategia Regional de Bienestar Animal para las Américas

Background
Antecedentes

1	El bienestar animal fue identificado como una de las prioridades del tercer Plan Estratégico de la OIE para el período 2001-2005 y reafirmado en los subsiguientes planes estratégicos. Los Países y Territorios Miembros encargaron a la OIE que asumiera el liderazgo en este campo y, siendo la única Organización Internacional de referencia para la sanidad animal, elaborase estándares y directrices sobre el bienestar animal, reafirmando así como un componente clave de la sanidad y producción animal.	Animal welfare was identified as one of several priorities for the OIE in its 2001-2005 Strategic Plan. Consequently, Member Countries and Territories entrusted and requested the OIE to assume the leadership within this field, as it is the only International Organization recognized for animal health, thus most appropriate to draft standards and guidelines on animal welfare, which would in turn reassert animal welfare as a key component of animal health and production.
2	La creación del Grupo de Trabajo Permanente de la OIE sobre Bienestar Animal se decidió durante la 70ª Sesión General en mayo de 2002, y las primeras recomendaciones del Grupo se adoptaron un año después. Los principios generales de bienestar de los animales se incluyeron en la edición 2004 del Código Sanitario para los Animales Terrestres (Código Terrestre).	The decision to create the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare was taken during the 70 th General Session in May 2002; the first recommendations of the group were adopted one year after its creation. The General Principles on animal welfare were included in the 2004 edition of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code).
3	En febrero de 2004, la OIE organizó la Primera Conferencia Mundial sobre Bienestar Animal, dirigida tanto a Países Miembros de la OIE como a los productores pecuarios, veterinarios y a organizaciones no gubernamentales (ONG) que trabajan en este campo. El principal objetivo de la Conferencia fue divulgar y explicar de manera más amplia la iniciativa de la OIE en el bienestar animal, de forma de que se incorpore el bienestar animal como una actividad funcional de sus servicios veterinarios.	In February 2004, the OIE organized the First Global Conference on Animal Welfare, involving OIE Member Countries as well as livestock producers, veterinarians and non-governmental organizations (NGO) working in this area. The main purpose of the meeting was to educate Members on the OIE's animal welfare initiatives and encourage Members to begin to incorporate animal welfare as a functional activity of their veterinary services.

4	<p>Desde mayo de 2005, la Asamblea Mundial de Delegados de la OIE (conformada por los Delegados nacionales de los 178 Países y Territorios Miembros) ha adoptado ocho normas sobre bienestar animal en el <i>Código Terrestre</i> y tres normas para inclusión en el <i>Código Sanitario para los Animales Acuáticos (Código Acuático)</i>. Dichas normas abordan los siguientes temas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Transporte de animales por vía marítima</u> • <u>Transporte de animales por vía terrestre</u> • <u>Transporte de animales por vía aérea</u> • <u>Sacrificio de animales para consumo humano</u> • <u>Matanza de animales con fines profilácticos</u> • <u>Control de las poblaciones de perros vagabundos</u> • <u>Utilización de animales en la investigación y educación</u> • <u>Bienestar animal y sistemas de producción de ganado vacuno de carne</u> • <u>Bienestar de los peces de cultivo durante el transporte</u> • <u>Aspectos relativos al bienestar en el aturdimiento y la matanza de peces de cultivo para consumo humano</u> • <u>Matanza de peces de cultivo con fines de control sanitario.</u> 	<p>Since May 2005, the World Assembly of OIE Delegates (representing the 178 Member Countries and Territories) has adopted eight animal welfare standards in the <i>Terrestrial Code</i> and three animal welfare standards in the <i>OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Code (Aquatic Code)</i>. These standards cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The transport of animals by land</u> • <u>The transport of animals by sea</u> • <u>The transport of animals by air</u> • <u>The slaughter of animals for human consumption</u> • <u>The killing of animals for disease control purposes</u> • <u>The control of stray dog populations</u> • <u>The use of animals in research and education</u> • <u>Animal welfare and beef cattle production systems</u> • <u>The welfare of farmed fish during transport</u> • <u>The welfare aspects of stunning and killing of farmed fish for human consumption</u> • <u>Killing of farmed fish for disease control purposes.</u>
5a	<p>La 2ª Conferencia Mundial sobre Bienestar Animal titulada “Por la aplicación efectiva de las normas de la OIE” se celebró en octubre de 2008 en El Cairo (Egipto). Más de 400 participantes procedentes de todas las regiones de la OIE y del conjunto de sectores pertinentes, gubernamental, industrial, académico, científico y organizaciones no gubernamentales, respaldaron firmemente la idea de que para mejorar el bienestar animal resulta imprescindible la implicación activa de los Servicios Veterinarios (incluidos tanto los sectores oficiales como privados y académicos). El resultado más importante de la conferencia ha sido la identificación de las necesidades y las herramientas esenciales para ayudar a los Miembros de la OIE a consolidar sus capacidades a fin de aplicar las normas de la OIE.</p>	<p>The 2nd Global Conference on Animal Welfare, entitled “Putting the OIE Standards to Work” was held in October 2008 in Cairo (Egypt). More than 400 participants from all OIE regions and relevant sectors including government, industry, academics, scientists and non-governmental organizations supported the idea that active involvement of Veterinary Services (including official, private and academic sectors) is essential to improving animal welfare. The most important outcome of the conference was the identification of the needs and tools necessary to assist OIE Member Countries strengthen their capacities in order to implement OIE Standards.</p>

5b	La 3ª conferencia mundial de la OIE sobre bienestar animal, “Aplicación de las normas de la OIE teniendo en cuenta las expectativas regionales”, fue realizada en Kuala Lumpur (Malasia), entre el 6 y 8 de noviembre de 2012, y reconfirmó los resultados de las Conferencias previas. Uno de los puntos relevante de las conclusiones fue la necesidad del apoyo de la OIE al desarrollo e implementación de estrategias regionales de bienestar animal de la OIE, y considerar el desarrollo de una estrategia mundial de bienestar animal.	The 3 rd OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare, entitled “Implementing the OIE Standards – addressing regional expectations” was held in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), during November 6 to 8, 2012, and reconfirmed the results of previous Conferences. One of the relevant points in the conclusions was the need of the support by the OIE for the the development and implementation of OIE regional animal welfare strategies, and consider the development of a global animal welfare strategy.
6	La 1ª Reunión Interamericana de la OIE sobre Bienestar Animal se llevó a cabo en Panamá el 19 y 20 de agosto de 2008, dando como resultado la necesidad de establecer una posición estratégica consensuada entre los diferentes sectores involucrados de las Américas. Entre el 29 de junio y 1 de julio de 2010 se realizó la reunión de Puntos Focales de Bienestar Animal de la OIE, en la cual se ratificó la necesidad de contar con una estrategia regional para el bienestar animal.	The 1 st OIE Inter-American Meeting on Animal Welfare was held in Panama, on August 19th and 20th 2008, and resulted in the need to establish a common strategic position for the Americas reached by the different stakeholders. During a meeting of the OIE Animal Welfare Focal Points held between June 29th and July 1st 2010, the need to have a regional strategy for animal welfare was confirmed.
7	En ambas reuniones se recomendó la participación del Comité Interamericano de Bienestar Animal en la elaboración de una propuesta de estrategia.	At both meetings, it was strongly recommended that the Inter-American Committee for Animal Welfare be involved in the drafting of a strategy.
8	Dentro del quinto Plan Estratégico de la OIE, para el período 2011-2015 se establece que la OIE continúe desarrollando normas internacionales de Bienestar Animal, de acuerdo con los lineamientos establecidos en los planes anteriores.	Included in the OIE 5th Strategic Plan, for the period 2011-2015, it is stated that the OIE will continue to develop international standards on animal welfare, pursuant to the guidelines established in the previous plans.
9	A pesar de los progresos alcanzados hasta la fecha, aún existen muchos retos por lo que la OIE proseguirá su tarea de elaboración de normas en nuevas áreas de importancia para el bienestar animal.	Although improvements in animal welfare have been achieved to date, many challenges still exist, so the OIE shall continue developing standards in new relevant areas for animal welfare.
10	Uno de los desafíos es estimular la aplicación de las normas adoptadas por los Miembros y Territorios de la OIE, para lo cual el rol de las Comisiones Regionales se considera vital.	One such challenges is to encourage the implementation of animal welfare standards adopted by OIE Members and Territories, for which the role of Regional Commissions is vital.
11	La OIE reconoce el bienestar animal como un tema complejo con múltiples facetas, que incluyen dimensiones científicas, económicas, religiosas, éticas, regionales y culturales, en concordancia con la Región de las Américas.	The OIE recognizes that animal welfare is a complex and multifaceted topic that includes scientific, economic, religious, ethical, national, regional and cultural dimensions; this is no different in the region of the Americas.
12	La Estrategia Regional de las Américas toma como base otras iniciativas regionales ya desarrolladas, como lo es la Estrategia Regional para el Bienestar Animal para Asia, Lejano Oriente y Oceanía.	The regional strategy for the Americas is consistent with initiatives in other OIE Regions already developed, such as the Regional Strategy for Animal Welfare for Asia, the Far East and Oceania.

Introduction
Introducción

1	Los animales han jugado y juegan un papel fundamental en el progreso económico y social de la Región.	Animals have and continue to play a fundamental role in the Region's economic and social progress.
2	El desarrollo y aplicación de normas de la OIE sobre el bienestar animal es un tema complejo de política pública que implica la ciencia y la ética, además de ser influenciada por factores culturales, religiosos, sociales, económicos y de seguridad alimentaria. En el caso de los animales productores de alimentos, la preocupación por asegurar la disponibilidad de un abastecimiento de alimentos seguro y abundante también jugará un papel importante. Por lo tanto, teniendo en cuenta las necesidades múltiples y potencialmente conflictivas y agendas, la Estrategia hace hincapié en el papel y la participación de todos los actores de la región con el fin de llegar a un consenso sobre una visión y misión común.	The development and implementation of OIE standards on animal welfare is a complex issue of public policy that requires consideration of both science and ethics, in addition to being influenced by cultural, religious, social, economic and food security factors. In the case of food producing animals, concerns about ensuring the availability of a safe, secure and abundant food supply will also play a role. Therefore, given multiple, potentially conflicting needs and agendas, the Strategy emphasizes the role and the participation of all stakeholders of the region in order to reach consensus on a common vision and mission.
3	La Estrategia Regional reconoce las actividades desarrolladas por los gobiernos, la industria y organizaciones para mejorar el bienestar animal y desarrollar sistemas productivos sostenibles.	The Regional Strategy recognizes activities being undertaken by governments, industry and non-governmental organizations to improve animal welfare and develop sustainable production systems.
4	La Estrategia facilita un enfoque regional de consulta para el bienestar de los animales que acoge a los sectores gubernamentales y no gubernamentales, y pretende desarrollar el apoyo regional para la aplicación de las normas y directrices de la OIE.	The Strategy promotes a regional consultative approach to animal welfare and welcomes the involvement of the government sector and non-governmental organizations (NGO's) seeking to develop regional support for the implementation of the OIE standards and guidelines.
5	Además, establece el marco para la obtención de resultados en bienestar animal, basados, o informados por la evidencia científica y el conocimiento, y por lo tanto, reconoce la importancia de la educación, la formación y la investigación en bienestar animal.	In addition, it establishes a framework for sustainable animal welfare outcomes based on, or informed by, scientific evidence and knowledge. Hence, recognizes the importance of education and training, and animal welfare research.
6	También reconoce la importancia de las actividades de los Centros Colaboradores de la OIE en esta materia.	The relevance of the activities carried out by the OIE Collaborating Centres on Animal welfare is also recognized.
7	Existen importantes retos y oportunidades para enfrentar esta Estrategia. La Estrategia estará enfocada en cinco objetivos prioritarios, los cuales deberán ser cumplidos a través de actividades específicas.	There are important challenges and opportunities to address this strategy. The strategy will focus on five important objectives, which shall be fulfilled through the performance of specific activities.
8	La planificación de las actividades incluidas en la estrategia a nivel regional se realizará, bajo la coordinación de la Representación Regional de la OIE para las Américas.	The planning of the regional activities included in the strategy shall be performed under the coordination of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas.

9	<p>El establecimiento de Comités Nacionales sobre Bienestar Animal debe ser promovido para fomentar la aplicación de las actividades nacionales relacionadas con las normas de la OIE sobre bienestar animal. Los Comités deben desempeñar un papel importante en proporcionar un asesoramiento independiente a la Autoridad Competente sobre políticas relacionadas al bienestar de animales.</p>	<p>The establishment of National Animal Welfare Committees should so be promoted to encourage the implementation of national activities related to OIE animal welfare standards. The Committees should play an important role in providing independent advice to the Competent Authority on animal welfare policy related issues.</p>
10	<p>La Estrategia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Está diseñada para mejorar la salud y bienestar de los animales promoviendo el desarrollo y la aplicación de las normas y directrices de la OIE sobre bienestar animal. • Reconoce la relación entre el bienestar animal, sanidad, y producción. • Reconoce la necesidad de tener en cuenta las particularidades de la región. • Proporciona un marco consultivo regional abierto a la participación de los sectores gubernamentales y no gubernamentales. • Proporciona un marco para coordinar las actividades de bienestar animal y abordar las nuevas cuestiones que se plantean en la región, reconociendo que el principal objetivo de los Países Miembros de las Américas es llegar a niveles altos y sostenibles de producción y productividad de alimentos de origen animal, a un nivel suficiente para alimentar a la población de la región y seguir cumpliendo con las exigencias de la seguridad alimentaria mundial, contribuyendo al bienestar económico de los países respetando al mismo tiempo los cambios en los valores sociales. 	<p>The Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has been designed with the purpose of improving animal health and welfare by promoting the development and adoption of OIE animal welfare standards. • Recognizes the interrelation between animal welfare, animal health and production. • Recognizes the need to take into account the particularities of the region. • Provides a regional consultative approach to animal welfare that welcomes the involvement of the governmental sector and nongovernmental organizations. • Provides a framework to coordinate animal welfare activities and address new issues arising in the region, recognizing that the main objective of the Member Countries of the Americas is to reach high and sustainable levels of production and productivity of food from animal origin, at a level sufficient to feed the regional population and continue meeting the demands of global food security, contributing to the economic well-being of countries while respecting changing social values.
11	<p>El bienestar de los animales destinados a fines distintos de la producción y el comercio de alimentos, tales como animales salvajes, mascotas, animales de laboratorio y de exhibición, entre otros, también es importante, pero no se abordan específicamente dentro de esta estrategia, en esta oportunidad.</p>	<p>The welfare of animals destined for purposes other than trade and food production, such as wild animals, pets, laboratory and show animals, among others, is also important but is not specifically addressed within this strategy at this time.</p>

El siguiente diagrama representa los componentes, los factores impulsores y los resultados previstos que apoyan una estrategia sostenible del bienestar animal en la región.



The following diagram depicts the components, drivers and expected outcomes that support a sustainable animal welfare strategy in the region.



I. Vision
I. Visión

<p>Ser una región en donde se respeta y promueve el bienestar animal, donde las mejoras en el bienestar animal son compatibles con las normas de la OIE, y ser una región que participe activamente en el desarrollo y la actualización de las normas de la OIE sobre bienestar animal.</p>	<p>To be a region where animal welfare is respected and promoted, where improvements in animal welfare are consistent with OIE standards, and to be a region that actively participates in the development and update of OIE animal welfare standards.</p>
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II.Purpose
II. Propósito

<p>La Estrategia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proporciona lineamientos para el desarrollo de planes de acción en los países miembros para participar en la creación y aplicación de las normas y directrices de la OIE. • Proporciona una guía para el desarrollo de futuras políticas de bienestar animal, basada en un enfoque regional consultivo. 	<p>The strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides guidelines for the development of action plans for member countries to participate in the setting and implementation of OIE standards and guidelines. • Provides a guide for the development of future animal welfare policies, based on a regional consultative approach.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilita el establecimiento de prioridades. • Proporciona un marco para la cooperación entre los países miembros y las distintas partes interesadas en la promoción y el avance del bienestar animal en la Región. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitates the establishment of priorities. • Provides a framework for cooperation among member countries and stakeholders in promoting and advancing animal welfare in the Region.
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III. Scope

III. Alcance

1	<p>La estrategia abarca los cuidados, usos, e impactos de la actividad humana sobre todas las especies animales consideradas en las normas de la OIE, con énfasis inicial en los animales de granja. Asimismo, cubre el bienestar de los animales en sistemas de producción, el transporte de animales, el sacrificio de animales para consumo humano, el sacrificio de animales con fines profilácticos, el control de perros vagabundos y el uso de animales en investigación y educación, de acuerdo a las normas y directrices establecidas por la OIE.</p>	<p>The strategy covers the care, use and impact of human activities on all animal species considered in the OIE animal welfare standards, with an initial emphasis on farmed animals. It also covers the welfare of animals in production systems, animal transport, slaughter for human consumption, killing for disease control purposes, control of stray dogs and the use of animals for research and education, in accordance with the standards and guidelines established by the OIE.</p>
2	<p>La estrategia proporciona un marco para lograr mejoras sostenibles en el bienestar de los animales con un enfoque basado en la ciencia, considerando también los aspectos sociales, económicos, éticos y culturales. También abarca el bienestar de los animales en situaciones de emergencia.</p>	<p>The strategy provides a framework to achieve sustainable improvements in animal welfare using a science-based approach, also taking into account social, economic, ethical and cultural aspects. It also covers the welfare of animals in emergency situations.</p>
3	<p>La estrategia está dirigida a las personas y organizaciones de la Región, e incluye a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • las personas a cargo de los animales (responsables), • los usuarios de los animales, • las profesiones de Veterinaria y otras disciplinas relacionadas como ciencias pecuarias y agronómicas, • las instituciones de investigación, • los ganaderos, procesadores, industria y transportistas, • organizaciones de conservación y protección de los animales, • organismos veterinarios estatutarios (Colegios Veterinarios) • académicos, • investigadores, 	<p>The strategy targets the individuals and organizations from the entire region and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the people in charge of the animals (responsible for them), • animal users, • the veterinary, animal science and agricultural professions • research institutions, • stockbreeders, processors, industry and transporters, • conservation and animal protection organizations, • Veterinary Statutory Bodies (national veterinary boards) • academics, • researchers, • consumers,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consumidores, • establecimientos educativos de pregrado y sus maestros, • Servicios Veterinarios Oficiales, • otras entidades gubernamentales y no gubernamentales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • undergraduate facilities and their teachers, • Official Veterinary Services , • other governmental and non-governmental entities
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IV. Benefits of the Strategy
IV. Beneficios de la Estrategia

1	<p>Los beneficios esperados de la implementación de la estrategia son los siguientes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desarrollo de una aproximación regional clara y coordinada sobre el bienestar animal. • El desarrollo y logro de mejoras sostenibles en el área del bienestar animal. • La identificación de indicadores de bienestar animal que permitan analizar los resultados de la estrategia. • Legislación, normas y directrices regionales fácilmente identificables y claramente definidas • Contar con orientación sobre las decisiones futuras en la utilización de recursos para proteger y promover el bienestar animal sostenible. • La identificación de las prioridades de investigación para la región, teniendo en cuenta el desarrollo internacional en esta área. • Mejora en la salud de los animales. • Mejora sostenible en la producción animal • Mejoras en el manejo y cuidado de los animales por parte de sus responsables. • Explorar las oportunidades comerciales de mejores estándares de bienestar animal, tales como nichos de mercado, acreditación, sistemas de certificación. • Mejora del bienestar humano 	<p>The expected benefits from this strategy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a clear and coordinated approach to animal welfare within the region. • Develop and achieve sustainable animal welfare improvements. • Identify animal welfare indicators to evaluate the outcomes of the strategy. • Readily identifiable and clearly defined regional legislation, standards and guidelines. • Provide guidance on future resource decisions to protect and promote sustainable animal welfare. • Identify animal welfare research priorities for the region while considering international research in animal welfare. • Improve animal health. • Improve sustainable animal productivity • Improved animal handling and care by those who are responsible for them. • To explore international marketing opportunities in better animal welfare standards as a result of investments in animal welfare (eg niche markets, accreditation/ certification schemes). • Improve human welfare.
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V. Goals
V. Metas

1	La estrategia se constituye de cinco metas generales que están dirigidas a aportar los logros fundamentales y críticos necesarios, los cuales también servirán como guía para los futuros planes de acción para el cumplimiento y el logro de la visión de la Estrategia.	The Strategy is based on five general goals which aim to provide the fundamental and critical achievements that will guide action plans in order to achieve the strategy's vision:
2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promover, a través de un enfoque regional coordinado, la implementación de los normas de bienestar animal de la OIE. 2. Difundir y promocionar el concepto de bienestar animal en la región mediante la coordinación eficaz, la comunicación, la educación y la formación de capacidades. 3. Lograr mejoras sostenibles en materia de bienestar animal, basado en el desarrollo de la investigación regional e internacional. 4. Desarrollar mecanismos sostenibles para coordinar y promover programas de bienestar de los animales de acuerdo a las prioridades regionales. 5. Establecer alianzas con las partes interesadas con el objetivo de facilitar la implementación de los estándares de la OIE. 6. Promover la participación en el proceso de creación de normas de la OIE 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To promote the implementation of the OIE standards on animal welfare through a coordinated regional approach. 2. To disseminate and promote the concept of animal welfare within the region through effective coordination, communication, education and capacity building. 3. To achieve sustainable improvements in animal welfare based on the development of regional and international research. 4. To develop sustainable mechanisms for the coordination and promotion of animal welfare programs in accordance with regional priorities. 5. To establish alliances with the various stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of OIE standards. 6. To promote the participation in the OIE standards setting process.

VI. Goals, Objectives and Activities
VI. Metas, Objetivos y Actividades

<p>Meta 1 Garantizar, a través de un enfoque regional coordinado la implementación de las normas de bienestar animal de la OIE.</p>	<p>Goal 1 To guarantee the implementation of the OIE standards on animal welfare through a coordinated regional approach.</p>
<p><u>Objetivo 1</u> Promover el conocimiento y adopción de la estrategia regional por parte de los estados Miembros.</p>	<p><u>Objective 1</u> Promote the understanding and adoption of the regional strategy by the member countries.</p>
<p><i>Actividades</i> 1.1.1 Publicar y difundir la Estrategia de forma oficial, y en los medios, en las lenguas oficiales de todos los países Miembros de la Región.</p>	<p><i>Activities</i> 1.1.1. Publish and disseminate the Strategy officially and the media, in the official languages of all Members of the region.</p>

<p>1.1.2 Informar a las autoridades políticas y todos los sectores relevantes de la existencia de esta Estrategia.</p> <p>1.1.3 Publicar la Estrategia en el sitio web de la Representación Regional de la OIE para las Américas, y promover que ésta sea publicada en las páginas web de los Servicios veterinarios y organizaciones relacionadas en la región.</p>	<p>1.1.2 Inform all political authorities and relevant stakeholders of the existence of the strategy.</p> <p>1.1.3 Publish the strategy on the web site of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas and encourage its publication on the web sites of the Veterinary Services and organizations that have a role to play in animal welfare within the Region.</p>
<p>Objetivo 2 Promover la elaboración de normativas adecuadas a la implementación práctica de las normas de la OIE.</p>	<p>Objective 2 Promote the development of adequate regulations for the practical implementation of the OIE standards.</p>
<p><i>Actividades</i></p> <p>1.2.1 Hacer un relevamiento de las normativas en bienestar animal existentes en la Región.</p> <p>1.2.2 Promover la elaboración y el establecimiento de normativas nacionales sobre bienestar animal, por las autoridades competentes y de acuerdo a las normas de la OIE</p> <p>1.2.3 Promover la publicación en los sitios web de las autoridades competentes la normativa nacional respecto al bienestar animal.</p>	<p>Activities</p> <p>1.2.1. Conduct a survey of existing animal welfare standards in the region.</p> <p>1.2.2. Establish national animal welfare standards within the competences of the competent authorities in accordance with the OIE standards.</p> <p>1.2.3. Promote the publication of national standards regarding animal welfare on the web sites of the relevant authorities.</p>
<p>Meta 2</p> <p>Difundir y promocionar el concepto de bienestar animal en la región, basado en la ciencia mediante la coordinación eficaz, la comunicación, la educación y la formación de capacidades.</p>	<p>Goal 2</p> <p>Promote and distribute the concept of animal welfare based on science within the region through effective coordination, communication, education and capacity building.</p>
<p>Objetivo 1 Promover la realización de actividades de difusión, educación y capacitación de acuerdo a las principales necesidades de los países miembros de la región</p> <p><i>Actividades</i></p> <p>2.1.1 Realizar seminarios técnicos y talleres sobre bienestar animal adaptados a la realidad regional y sub regional.</p> <p>2.1.2 Elaborar y difundir material de difusión sobre bienestar animal en concordancia a las diferentes realidades productivas de la Región.</p>	<p>Objective 1 To promote the dissemination, awareness, education and training on animal welfare aspects in keeping with the main needs of the member countries of the Region.</p> <p>Activities</p> <p>2.1.1. Hold technical seminars and workshops on animal welfare applicable to the regional and sub-regional realities.</p> <p>2.1.2. Develop and distribute material on animal welfare in accordance with the different production systems of the region.</p>

<p>Objetivo 2 Estimular la capacitación como herramienta para mejorar la adopción de buenas prácticas de bienestar animal y las normas de la OIE</p> <p><i>Actividades</i></p> <p>2.2.1 Realizar un relevamiento de las iniciativas de capacitación a nivel regional, a cargo de los Centros Colaboradores de la OIE</p> <p>2.2.2 Crear y difundir una base de datos a cargo de los Centros Colaboradores de la OIE y disponible para los Países Miembros, con oportunidades de capacitación en bienestar animal.</p> <p>2.2.3 Promover el desarrollo de redes por parte de los Puntos Focales Nacionales para intercambiar información sobre buenas prácticas.</p>	<p>Objective 2 To encourage training as a tool to improve the adoption of good animal welfare practices and the OIE standards.</p> <p>Activities</p> <p>2.2.1. Carry out a survey on regional training initiatives, under the responsibility of the OIE Collaborating Centres</p> <p>2.2.2. To develop and disseminate a database, administered by the OIE Collaborating Centres and available for Member Countries, that would include training opportunities on animal welfare available for member countries.</p> <p>2.2.3. To encourage National Focal Points in developing networks for exchanges on good practices.</p>
<p>Meta 3 Lograr mejoras sostenibles en materia de bienestar animal, basadas en el desarrollo de la investigación regional e internacional.</p>	<p>Goal 3 To achieve sustainable improvements in animal welfare based on the development of regional and international research.</p>
<p>Objetivo 1 Promover y fomentar líneas de investigación en Bienestar Animal en las diferentes instituciones vinculadas con el tema</p> <p><i>Actividades</i></p> <p>3.1.1 Promover la investigación de el/los Centro(s) colaborador(es) de la OIE para Bienestar Animal.</p> <p>3.1.2 Fomentar la generación de estudios innovadores en las Universidades e Instituciones de investigación, que apunten a mejorar los objetivos de la región teniendo en cuenta las particularidades de las Américas.</p> <p>3.1.3 Fortalecer la colaboración y el trabajo conjunto entre los investigadores de los países de la región para generar información relacionada con bienestar animal.</p>	<p>Objective 1 Promote and encourage research in Animal Welfare at the different institutions involved in this field.</p> <p>Activities</p> <p>3.1.1. Support research on animal welfare by the OIE Collaborating Centre(s).</p> <p>3.1.2. Encourage the development of innovative studies in National Universities and research institutes that seek to improve the regional objectives and taking into account the particularities of the Americas.</p> <p>3.1.3. Strengthen collaboration among researchers in the countries of the region in order to generate information on animal welfare.</p>
<p>Objetivo 2 Asegurar que la investigación en bienestar animal que se desarrolle en las Américas cubra las necesidades y demandas de la Región.</p>	<p>Objective 2 To ensure that the animal welfare research carried out in the Americas meets the needs and demands of the region.</p>

<p><i>Actividades</i></p> <p>3.2.1 Apoyar la difusión de información sobre bienestar animal, en forma coordinada con el/los Centro(s) colaborador(es) de la OIE para Bienestar Animal presentes en la región.</p> <p>3.2.2 Estimular la coordinación de iniciativas de investigación en bienestar animal a través de el(los) Centro(s) Colaborador(es) e investigadores de la región.</p> <p>3.2.3 Potenciar el sitio Web de el(los) Centro(s) Colaborador(es) de bienestar animal de la OIE.</p>	<p>Activities</p> <p>3.2.1. Support the dissemination of animal welfare information in coordination with the OIE Collaborating Centre(s) in the region for animal welfare.</p> <p>3.2.2. Promote the coordination of animal welfare research initiatives through the Collaborating Research Centre(s) and researchers in the Region.</p> <p>3.2.3. Promote the web sites of the OIE Collaborating Centre(s) on animal welfare.</p>
<p>Meta 4 Desarrollar mecanismos sostenibles para coordinar y promover programas de bienestar animal de acuerdo a las prioridades regionales.</p>	<p>Goal 4 Develop sustainable mechanisms for the coordination and promotion of animal welfare programs in accordance with the regional priorities.</p>
<p><u>Objetivo 1</u> Promover la creación de programas de bienestar animal en Universidades Nacionales, en concordancia con los lineamientos de la OIE.</p> <p><i>Actividades</i></p> <p>4.1.1 Crear cursos lectivos de bienestar animal en carreras afines de Universidades. Nacionales</p> <p>4.1.2 Organizar cursos de postgrado en bienestar animal en coordinación con el(los) Centro(s) Colaborador(es) de bienestar animal de la OIE.</p>	<p><u>Objective 1</u> Promote the development of curricula on Animal Welfare at National Universities in line with the OIE guidelines.</p> <p>Activities</p> <p>4.1.1 Develop curriculum courses on animal welfare and related fields at National universities.</p> <p>4.1.2 Develop post-graduate courses on animal welfare in coordination with OIE Collaborating Centre(s) on Animal Welfare.</p>
<p><u>Objetivo 2</u> Lograr la cooperación técnica de organizaciones internacionales y subregionales en la generación de programas de Bienestar Animal.</p> <p><i>Actividades</i></p> <p>4.2.1 Generar proyectos tendientes a evaluar las necesidades regionales para su posterior ejecución.</p>	<p><u>Objective 2</u> To achieve the technical cooperation of international and sub-regional organizations in the development of animal welfare programs.</p> <p>Activities</p> <p>4.2.1. Develop projects that address regional needs for their future application.</p>
<p><u>Objetivo 3</u> Promover la creación de programas de bienestar animal en instituciones educativas (educación primaria y secundaria)</p> <p><i>Actividades</i></p> <p>4.3.1 Crear programas educativos interactivos en escuelas primarias</p>	<p><u>Objective 3</u> To promote the development of animal welfare programs undergraduate educational institutions (primary and high school) institutions.</p> <p>Activities</p> <p>4.3.1. Develop interactive educational programmes in primary schools</p>

4.3.2 Incorporar cursos de bienestar animal en instituciones educativas (educación primaria y secundaria), con el apoyo y participación de partes interesadas, como las organizaciones no gubernamentales y las asociaciones de productores.	4.3.2. Incorporate animal welfare courses into primary and high schools, with the support and participation of stakeholders such as non-governmental organizations and producer associations.
Meta 5 Establecer alianzas con las partes interesadas con el objetivo de facilitar la implementación de los lineamientos de la OIE.	Goal 5 To establish alliances with the various stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of OIE guidelines.
<u>Objetivo 1</u> Promover la creación de grupos de trabajo para facilitar la implementación de buenas prácticas de bienestar animal y las normas de la OIE. <i>Actividades</i> 5.1.1 Potenciar el trabajo del Comité Interamericano de Bienestar Animal para apoyar a los países miembros a elaborar políticas tendientes a llevar a cabo la implementación de las normas de la OIE.	<u>Objective 1</u> To promote the creation of working groups to facilitate implementation of good animal welfare practices and OIE standards. Activities 5.1.1. Enhance the work of the Inter American Committee for Animal Welfare to support Member Countries in developing policies to implement OIE standards.
<u>Objetivo 2</u> Promover acuerdos de cooperación técnica entre Organizaciones Subregionales (CVP, OIRSA, CAN, CARICOM, CaribVET e IICA, entre otros). <i>Actividades</i> 5.2.1 Realizar reuniones de trabajo para elaborar planes de acción que faciliten la implementación de las normas de la OIE en los Países Miembros. 5.2.2 Fomentar el intercambio de información para armonizar aspectos técnicos en bienestar animal a través de un foro en línea. 5.2.3 Promover la asistencia técnica a los Países Miembros por parte de organismos internacionales y donantes.	<u>Objective 2</u> Promote technical cooperation agreements among sub regional organizations (e.g. CVP, OIRSA, CAN, CARICOM, CaribVET and IICA). Activities 5.2.1. Hold joint work meetings to develop action plans to facilitate the implementation of OIE standards in the member countries. 5.2.2. Encourage information exchange to harmonize technical aspects of animal welfare through an on-line forum 5.2.3. Promote technical assistance of international organizations and donors to Member Countries.
Meta 6 Promover la participación en el proceso de creación de normas de la OIE.	Goal 6 To promote the participation in the OIE standards setting process.
<u>Objetivo 1</u> Mejorar la participación de los Países Miembros en la revisión y creación de normas de la OIE	<u>Objective 1</u> To improve the participation of Member countries in the revision and creation of OIE standards.

<p><i>Actividades</i></p> <p>6.1.1. Realizar actividades de capacitación para los Delegados y Puntos Focales Nacionales, con el fin de lograr el pleno cumplimiento de sus derechos y obligaciones.</p> <p>6.2.2. Proponer a los Delegados la necesidad de interacción con sus Puntos Focales Nacionales, así como la importancia de la creación de redes nacionales, específicamente en temas relacionados con el bienestar animal.</p>	<p><i>Activities</i></p> <p>6.1.1. Carry out training activities for the Delegates and National Focal Points, in order to achieve the full compliance with their rights and obligations.</p> <p>6.2.2. To propose the Delegates the need of the interaction with their National Focal Points, and also the importance of national networking, especially on Animal Welfare issues.</p>
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VII. Roles and responsibilities

VII. Funciones y responsabilidades

<p>Todas las personas que tengan animales bajo su cuidado tienen la responsabilidad de contar con un conocimiento adecuado, capacidad y habilidades necesarias para garantizar el bienestar de los animales. Algunos grupos, organizaciones e instituciones que juegan un papel importante en la aplicación de esta Estrategia son los siguientes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • La Representación Regional de la OIE para las Américas (Coordinación) • Los Centros Colaboradores de la OIE • Los países miembros (los ejecutores principales) • Industria pecuaria • Las ONGs de protección del bienestar de los animales • Las instituciones académicas, educativas y de investigación • Las Asociaciones de veterinarios nacionales y regionales • Las Organizaciones regionales y subregionales (CVP, OIRSA, CAN, CARICOM, CaribVET y otros) • Organizaciones Internacionales (OIE, FAO, IICA, PANAFTOSA, BM-IFC, BID WVA y otros) • Los propietarios de animales • Transportistas • Procesadores • Comercializadores 	<p>All persons having animals in their care are responsible for being well informed and having the proper training and skills to provide adequate care to ensure animal welfare.</p> <p>More specifically, the following groups, organizations and institutions play an important role in the implementation of the strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The OIE Regional Representation for the Americas (As the coordinator) • The OIE Collaborating Centres • Member countries (the main implementers) • Livestock industry • Animal welfare NGO's • Academic and research institutions • National and regional Veterinary Associations • Regional and sub regional organizations (e.g., CVP, OIRSA, CAN, CARICOM, CaribVet and others) • International Organizations (e.g., OIE, FAO, IICA, PANAFTOSA, WB-IFC, IDB WVA) • Animal Owners • Transporters • Processors • Retailers
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VIII. Implementation and Evaluation**VIII. Implementación y Evaluación**

1	La estrategia entrega claras metas regionales en materia de bienestar animal y proporciona un marco para lograr resultados sostenibles en base a un trabajo basado en la ciencia.	This strategy sets clear regional goals related to animal welfare and provides a framework to achieve sustainable, scientifically based and acceptable animal welfare outcomes.
2	Una vez adoptada la estrategia regional por la Comisión Regional de la OIE de las Américas, se recomienda el establecimiento de un Plan de Implementación para esta Estrategia Regional de Bienestar Animal.	Once adopted by the OIE Regional Commission of the Americas, the development of an implementation plan for this Strategy should be established.
3	La elaboración de este Plan estará a cargo del Comité de Bienestar Animal de las Américas, y será desarrollado en consulta con las principales partes interesadas.	Formulation of this work- plan shall be developed by the Inter American Committee for Animal Welfare, in consultation with pertinent stakeholders.
3b	Los avances en la implementación de esta Estrategia Regional serán presentados durante las Conferencias de la Comisión Regional de la OIE para las Américas.	The advancement in the implementation of the Regional Strategy shall be presented during the Conferences of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas.
4	Esta estrategia será revisada al menos cada cuatro años y cuando sea necesario asegurar que su contenido incorpore los últimos avances científicos, la experiencia obtenida y el cumplimiento de los objetivos propuestos.	This strategy will be reviewed at least every four years and whenever needed to ensure that its contents incorporate the latest scientific advancements, experience obtained and fulfillment of the established objectives.

List of acronyms used in the document

ALA	Latin American Poultry Association
CAN	Andean Community of Nations
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CVP	Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
IADB	Inter-American Development Bank
OIE	World Organization for Animal Health
OIRSA	Regional International Organization for Animal and Plant Health
PANAFTOSA	Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center
WB-IFC	World Bank-International Finance Corporation
WVA	World Veterinary Association
CaribVET	Caribbean Animal Health Network

Listado de siglas utilizadas en el documento

ALA	Asociación Latinoamericana de Avicultura
BID	Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo
CAN	Comunidad Andina de Naciones
CARICOM	Comunidad del Caribe
CVP	Comité Veterinario Permanente del Cono Sur
FAO	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura
IICA	Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura
BM-IFC	Corporación Financiera Internacional del Banco Mundial
OIE	Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal
OIRSA	Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria
PANAFTOSA	Centro Panamericano de Fiebre Aftosa
WVA	Asociación Veterinaria Mundial
CaribVET	Red de Salud Animal del Caribe

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MOTION OF THANKS

The President and the Members of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, the Director General of the OIE, the members of delegations, country representatives, representatives of international and regional organisations and observers, wish to express their deep gratitude to the Government of Barbados, the Host Country of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission, held from 26 to 29 November 2012, for the warm welcome accorded to the participants, for all facilities made available to them during their stay in Bridgetown and for the excellent organisation of the conference.