

## ***OIE took part in the 6th VICH Public Conference,***

### ***'Unlocking Africa's Potential'***

*Cape Town, South Africa, 27-28 February 2019*

The 6th International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH) Public Conference was held in Cape Town last February. The conference, *Unlocking Africa's Potential*, welcomed participants from 28 countries. Speakers from the OIE, Africa and abroad, industry organisations, the World Bank and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation shared their experiences in implementing VICH guidelines, discussed the benefits of adoption, and brainstormed ways to advance efforts towards regulatory convergence. These presentations are currently available on the speaker's page of the conference website ([www.vich6.co.za](http://www.vich6.co.za)) and will soon be available on the VICH website ([www.vichsec.org](http://www.vichsec.org)).

VICH was established in 1996 as a means of collaboration primarily between the regulatory authorities and the animal health industry of the European Union, Japan and the United States of America; Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and South Africa also participate actively as VICH observer members.

The OIE has taken part in the VICH process from the beginning and was instrumental in establishing the **VICH Outreach Forum** in November 2011. This Forum provides a basis for wider international harmonisation of registration requirements and currently includes representatives from Argentina, Brazil, China (Pep. Rep. of), India, Korea (Rep. of), Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Chinese Taipei, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine and Zimbabwe, as well as from the regional organisations, Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the American Committee Veterinary Medicinal Products (CAMEVET), and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMO).

This conference was held in conjunction with the 37th VICH Steering Committee and the 11th VICH Outreach Forum meetings. As indicated in the OIE's 5th Strategic Plan, the OIE encourages the use of VICH guidelines by its Members Countries.

More information about the role of the OIE and the VICH Outreach Forum [here](#).

