

RESOLUTION No. 35

**The Economics of Animal Health:
Direct and Indirect Costs of Animal Disease Outbreaks**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* glossary definition of risk assessment includes reference to the economic consequences of the entry, establishment and spread of a hazard,
2. The veterinary profession has a critical role in the management of the health and welfare of terrestrial and aquatic animals,
3. Animal diseases, which can have profound economic consequences for countries, the animal production sector and owners, and public health, are the reasons for the existence of significant investments in Veterinary Services across the world,
4. Public animal health investments in non-notifiable endemic diseases are poorly represented in many of the current national disease control programmes, yet these may have a critical impact on animal productivity, biodiversity and environments,
5. These animal health investments do not cover all animal species and populations, particularly those animals kept by producers with limited resources,
6. Despite these animal health investments, many areas of the world continue to have low staffing levels of their national Veterinary Services relative to their animal populations,
7. There are insufficient high quality data and information on direct and indirect economic losses caused by animal diseases in general, which are required for an overall economic assessment of animal health,
8. Well-designed and presented economic analyses are a useful and necessary tool for defending existing and current resource allocation to Veterinary Services necessary to protect animal and public health, and animal welfare,
9. Economic analysis provides information on imbalances between: species and sectors; diseases; and activities within a disease control programme. Such information should be the basis for improved decision making of the Veterinary Services and their ability to engage with political and financial stakeholders at local, national and global levels,
10. The OIE is the world leader in collecting, analysing, reporting and disseminating information on global terrestrial and aquatic animal and zoonotic diseases through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS),
11. The OIE's support and/or involvement to promote the collection of economic data and the development, implementation, and integration of economic analyses will be critical for Member Countries to enhance the capacity of their Veterinary Services,
12. OIE Member Countries are keen to take advantage of existing and emerging educational and training opportunities, and the need to improve the economic analysis of animal health,

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries consistently report disease events in accordance with the obligations provided for in the *Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes*, and to regularly update the related information concerning livestock populations, as well as veterinary and laboratory services as part of their annual reports.
2. Member Countries use the associated collection and capture of data as a basis for the improvement of economic analyses and their use.
3. Investments be made by Member Countries in their national disease reporting systems to ensure timely and quality data capture.
4. Investments be made by OIE and Member Countries to optimise the use of the WAHIS data in support of economic analyses.
5. The OIE, with support from relevant organisations and donors, and informed by best practice of Member Countries, develop and test a methodology to determine the global burden of animal diseases in order to address deficiencies in economic information on national and world impact of animal diseases.
6. The OIE, with support from relevant organisations and donors, and informed by best practice of Member Countries, develop and test a methodology guided by the OIE PVS Gap Analysis Tool that will determine the costs of national Veterinary Services over continuous time periods. The resulting datasets combined with the burden of animal diseases should be used to estimate of productivity changes and returns on investment.
7. Veterinary education at undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing professional development levels includes the practical use of economics in animal health and welfare, and/or enhanced collaboration with relevant professionals in order to improve the use of economic analysis by the Veterinary Services.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2016
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