Globalisation and climate change, unregulated trade, unsustainable agricultural practices, our consumption patterns... all facilitate the emergence and spread of diseases between wild animals, domestic animals and humans, endangering the health of all. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic brutally brought the intrinsic link between animal, human and environmental health to everyone’s attention. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) works to break disease transmission cycles by collaborating with partners, experts and donors and by supporting countries.

Our vision
Building a healthier and safer future for all

Our action
Continuing our work
Addressing antimicrobial resistance
Fighting animal diseases
Coordinating a regional response to African horse sickness

Navigating the COVID-19 crisis

Encouraging dialogue between experts
Inside the OIE’s rumour tracking service
Stepping up global health management

Looking forward

Better data for better animal health
Protecting wildlife health
Training health professionals
Acknowledging the need to build more sustainable aquatic animal health systems, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) launched its first Aquatic Animal Health Strategy in May 2021.

Human consumption of aquatic animal products is greater than ever before. Today, aquatic animals are the main source of protein for billions of people worldwide, and demand is expected to increase. To satisfy this demand, aquatic animal production will need to double by 2050, with most of this growth coming from aquaculture.
Yet, aquatic animal diseases threaten the sustainable growth of the aquaculture sector and, consequently, our food supply. This threat is shared and requires coordinated actions by the OIE and its Members, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to protect and improve aquatic animal health worldwide.

Acknowledging the need to build more sustainable aquatic animal health systems, the OIE launched its first Aquatic Animal Health Strategy in May 2021. This Strategy will improve aquatic animal health and welfare worldwide, contributing to sustainable economic growth, poverty alleviation and food security, thereby supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

[ View the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Strategy 2021–2025 ]

OIE Aquatic Animals Portal
Centenary of the 1921 Paris International Conference which led to the creation of the OIE

**SUMMARY**

After an outbreak of rinderpest that devastated post-war Europe in 1920, Emmanuel Leclainche initiated the coordination of an international conference to study epizootics and their prevention. The conference was held in Paris in May 1921 and called for the establishment of an international body to control infectious animal diseases.

**KEYWORDS**

#conference, #history, #international organisation, #rinderpest, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

The severe economic impact and social disruption caused by animal diseases and the need to manage animal production – essential for food security – mean that combating epizootics has always been of the utmost importance to veterinarians.

The International Office of Epizootics (the OIE) was founded at one of the most distressing moments for veterinarians in the days following the First World War, when the sources of food production in Europe had been destroyed and misery and hunger paralysed the lives of all the warring countries.

An outbreak of rinderpest in Belgium in 1920 ...
In these difficult post-war years, another threat came to a Europe already in ruins. Rinderpest was found at the Belgian port of Antwerp in June 1920 with a shipment of zebu (Indian cattle), en route from India to Brazil. The apparently healthy animals were disembarked and quarantined in transit areas, to be taken aboard another ship that would carry them to Brazil. Meanwhile, three shipments of beef cattle arrived at the same port from the United States. These animals were shipped by rail in small batches to regional slaughterhouses. A few hundred of them were placed in the same location as the zebu, and stayed there for one or two days before being transported to the dispatch centres. However, a severe outbreak of rinderpest broke out among the animals that had been stabled with the zebu.

This news was of serious concern to the whole of Europe: not only to all of its veterinarians, particularly the Heads of national Animal Health Services, but also to farmers, breeders and the public in general, who brought enormous pressure to bear on the governments of the day.

Also known as ‘cattle plague’, rinderpest has always been a scourge. Outbreaks of the disease have wiped out herds for thousands of years. During the 18th Century, over 200 million cattle died of the disease in Europe and, in 1889, a deadly epizootic event was recorded in Africa, caused by the introduction of three infected Indian cattle into the port of Massawa, Eritrea. The disease spread to the south of Africa and killed 90% of all cattle in eastern and southern Africa.

Moreover, the need to prevent and control the disease led to the creation of the first veterinary schools in France (1762), Egypt (1827) and India (1872), and led Dr John Gamgee, Professor of Animal Anatomy and Physiology in Edinburgh, Scotland, to organise the first International Veterinary Congress in Hamburg, Germany, in 1863.

... was the source of international cooperation for the control of animal diseases ...

The risk posed by rinderpest in Belgium was mitigated thanks to the radical measures adopted. All infected animals, as well as animals that had been in contact with them, were immediately slaughtered; the carcasses and contaminated materials were burnt; and the strictest surveillance measures implemented. But the alarm had sounded, highlighting the responsibility of governments and amplifying the voice of veterinarians, which was already being heard in the International Veterinary Congresses. It was embodied by Professor Emmanuel Leclainche, Head of the French Veterinary Services, who declared: ‘the defence of a country’s livestock against epizootics depends not only on the measures adopted by that country, but also on international agreement, whereby a disease prevention programme is established and developed in all the countries of the region, of the continent and the world’.

... which led to the creation of the OIE in 1924

Multilingual and passionate about international veterinary work and research, Professor Leclainche took a leading role in the organisation of the international conference for the study of epizootics and their prevention.
Delegations from 43 countries and territories participated in the Paris Conference from 25 to 28 May 1921, including countries from Europe (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Monaco, Norway, Spain, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, Sweden, Switzerland and Czechoslovakia), nine countries from the Americas (the Republic of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Haiti, Paraguay, Peru, and the United States of America), three from Africa (Morocco, Tunisia and the Union of South Africa) and three from Asia and the Pacific (Australia, Japan and New Zealand).

The Sixth Resolution of the Conference expressed the wish that an International Office for the Control of Infectious Animal Diseases (epizootics) should be established in Paris and placed under the authority of a Committee that would meet at least once a year. Within less than three years, 28 states had approved the recommendation and an International Agreement for the creation of an Office International des Epizooties (OIE) was signed on 25 January 1924. The OIE's first Director General, Emmanuel Leclainche, remained in the position for 22 years, passing the baton to his successor, Gaston Ramon, in 1946.

The OIE collaborated with other international and regional organisations to implement vaccination programmes, surveillance and testing. It had a crucial role in streamlining the process for certification of countries as being free from specific animal diseases. Moreover, the world was officially declared free from rinderpest during the 79th OIE General Session in 2011. The eradication of rinderpest is one of the most important achievements in the history of veterinary medicine.
Emmanuel Leclainche was born in Aube, France, in 1861. He graduated at the Veterinary School of Alfort in 1882 and became a teacher of veterinary medicine in 1886. In 1891, he was appointed to the Chair of Infectious Diseases Pathology at the Veterinary School of Toulouse.

His scientific work included research on swine erysipelas, blackleg (Clostridium chauvoei) and gas gangrene (C. perfringens). In addition, he was a prolific author. In 1891, he wrote the Précis de médecine vétérinaire (Veterinary Medicine Handbook), and in 1895, with Professor Edmond Nocard, the Traité des maladies microbiennes des animaux (Treatise upon Microbial Diseases of Animals), which remains a classic. In 1903, he founded the Revue générale de médecine vétérinaire (General Review of Veterinary Medicine).

In 1911, he was appointed Inspector General, Director of Health Services, at the French Ministry of Agriculture. He played key roles in the reorganisation and unification of the French Veterinary Services, in the General Inspection of Veterinary Schools, in the creation of the OIE, in the French Veterinary Academy and in law reform related to the veterinary profession (e.g. the creation of the Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine).

Back

https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2021.1.3272
One Health: The Tripartite Alliance works with UNEP to better integrate the health of ecosystems into Tripartite work

**KEYWORDS**

#One Health, #Tripartite (FAO/OIE/WHO), #United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), #wildlife, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

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The senior management of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Health Organization (WHO) – or the Tripartite Alliance – has been meeting on an annual basis for almost thirty years. On 17–18 February 2021, the Tripartite Annual Executive Meeting was held for the 27th time.

The three organisations have been collaborating for many decades and advocating for a One Health approach to the prevention, detection and control of diseases and to issues such as antimicrobial resistance. This year’s meeting was notable, not only because it was held virtually, but because colleagues of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) were invited to participate. It was at the Paris Peace Forum in November 2020 that the heads of all four organisations agreed to work together. Inviting Ms Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, and members of her staff to the Executive Meeting was the logical next step in starting the process of expanding the Tripartite collaboration.

In the lead up to the Executive Meeting, the four organisations collaborated on the terms of reference for the One Health High-Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP – also an outcome of the Paris Peace Forum). They subsequently issued a call for experts and agreed on a process for establishing a Secretariat for the Panel.

Furthermore, to expand their collaboration on One Health activities, the Executives agreed to renew the One Health
concept and, with that, to develop a joint vision for intersectoral collaboration, implementation of work plans, and the establishment of a task force for resource mobilisation.

The OIE is pleased to welcome UNEP to the table and looks forward to working with UNEP in the implementation of activities that will meet Members’ needs and expectations.
13th Berlin Agriculture Ministers’ Conference communiqué

‘How to feed the world in times of pandemics and climate change?’

KEYWORDS

#climate change, #declaration, #food security, #Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA), #One Health, #pandemic, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

At the 13th Berlin Agriculture Ministers’ Conference which was held from 18 to 22 January 2021 as part of the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA), Agriculture Ministers from around the world reaffirmed their commitment to climate-friendly and crisis-resistant agriculture.
Health (OIE), agreed to an ambitious final communiqué.

In the communiqué, they agreed to, *inter alia*:

- support the One Health approach
- strengthen animal health
- create resilient animal health systems
- improve health management for wildlife species
- work to prevent future pandemics.

**Final communiqué**
Strengthening our One Health strategy

Establishing the One Health High-Level Expert Panel

SUMMARY

In partnership, the OIE, WHO, FAO and UNEP have established a One Health High-Level Expert Panel to advise the four organisations on scientific evidence to support risk management at the human—animal—environment interface.

KEYWORDS


The 12th of November 2020 marked a special day for advocates and practitioners of One Health and encouraged others to consider how the health of people, animals and the environment is interconnected.

On this day, at the Paris Peace Forum, the Ministerial Meeting of the Alliance for Multilateralism called upon the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to create a One Health High-Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP).

The Alliance for Multilateralism was formed to protect and preserve international standards and agreements, as well as to support the agendas of multilateral organisations in the delivery of their mandates to support citizens across
the globe. This bodes well for the OIE, whose raison d'être (in part) is to publish standards in an environment where multilateralism has less importance, but also for our collective call to action for One Health. As such, following a request from the Alliance, colleagues in FAO, OIE, UNEP and WHO worked together on the terms of reference for the OHHLEP, as well as on a call for experts.

While the FAO-OIE-WHO collaboration has advocated for a One Health approach to address health issues at the human-animal-environment interface for decades, this request to establish the OHHLEP strengthens our One Health strategy. With the Panel, we will have access to more diverse expertise in disciplines beyond public, veterinary and environmental health to include social, economic and behavioural sciences. This will make our approach to One Health a more refined instrument with which to examine the complex health issues before us. In addition, the inclusion of UNEP in the FAO-OIE-WHO collaboration further bolsters our collective vision of a more coherent One Health approach in the face of current and future health issues over the long term.

(1) The Alliance for Multilateralism was launched by the French and German Foreign Ministers as an informal network of countries united in their conviction that a rules-based multilateral order is the only reliable way to guarantee international stability and peace and that our common challenges can only be solved through cooperation.
On 21 May 2021 in Rome, the European Commission and Italy, as chair of the G20, co-hosted the Global Health Summit.

The Summit was an opportunity for G20 and invited leaders, heads of international and regional organisations, and
representatives of global health bodies, to share lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The leaders adopted the Rome Declaration, committing to common principles to overcome COVID-19 and to prevent and prepare for future pandemics.

The Rome Declaration
Activities of the OIE Council

KEYWORDS

#OIE Council, #OIE General Session, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

A new Council was established through the elections held at the 88th General Session of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

Dr Hugo Idoyaga chaired his first Council meeting as President from 28 to 30 September 2021. The meeting was held virtually. During this meeting, the Council endorsed the OIE Director General’s proposal to hold the 89th General Session (2022) in a hybrid format, which will allow for some delegations to attend this event face to face while others will be able to take part virtually. During its September meeting, the Council also addressed various administrative and institutional matters, such as the implementation and financing of the Seventh Strategic Plan. A summary of the minutes of this meeting will be made available on the OIE Delegates’ website.

To ensure that the new Council members would gain a good understanding of their role within this governance body of the Organisation, the Director General’s Office organised an Onboarding Training Workshop on 21 September 2021, attended by the three new members as well as two current members, including the President.

As a follow-up to the September 2021 meeting, there will be an extraordinary meeting of the Council during the week of 6 December 2021, to discuss options to secure income for the Organisation’s regular budget. The next ordinary meeting of the Council is scheduled to take place in early March 2022, in preparation for the 89th General Session.

Note: The recent change of Delegate of the United Arab Emirates to the OIE leaves a vacancy for the Middle-East region at the OIE Council. This position will remain vacant until the 89th General Session, when partial elections will take place.
OFFICIAL ACTS

RESOLUTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Resolutions adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE during the 88th General Session, 24–28 May 2021

KEYWORDS

#OIE General Session, #resolution, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

No. 1 Approval of the annual report of the Director General on the activities of the OIE in 2019 and 2020
No. 2 Approval of the report of the Director General on the management, activities and administrative work of the OIE in 2020
No. 3 Approval of the financial report for the 94th financial year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2020)
No. 4 Acknowledgements to the Members and partners that made voluntary contributions or subsidies to the OIE, or contributed in the organisation of OIE meetings and for the provision of personnel
No. 5 Modification of the 2021 budget
No. 6 OIE budgetary income and expenses for the 96th financial year (1 January to 31 December 2022)
No. 7 Financial contributions from OIE Members for 2022
No. 8 Planned work programme for 2021-2022
No. 9 Renewal of the appointment of the External Auditor
No. 10 Modalities of holding General Sessions
No. 11 Seventh Strategic Plan of the OIE for the 2021–2025 period
No. 12 Appointment of the Director General
No. 13  Recognition of the foot and mouth disease status of Members
No. 14  Endorsement of official control programmes for foot and mouth disease of Members
No. 15  Recognition of the contagious bovine pleuropneumonia status of Members
No. 16  Endorsement of official control programmes for contagious bovine pleuropneumonia of Members
No. 17  Recognition of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy risk status of Members
No. 18  Recognition of the African horse sickness status of Members
No. 19  Recognition of the peste des petits ruminants status of Members
No. 20  Recognition of the classical swine fever status of Members
No. 21  Endorsement of official control programmes for dog-mediated rabies of Members

First addendum to Resolution No. 15 of 29 May 2020 on the ‘Procedures for Members for the official recognition and maintenance of animal health status of certain animal diseases or risk status of bovine spongiform encephalopathy and for the endorsement of official control programmes.’

First addendum to Resolution No. 16 of 29 May 2020 on the ‘Costs to be covered by Members applying for the official recognition of animal health status of certain animal diseases or risk status of bovine spongiform encephalopathy and the endorsement of official control programmes.’

No. 22  Amendments to the Aquatic Animal Health Code
No. 23  Amendments to the Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals
No. 24  Amendments to the Terrestrial Animal Health Code
No. 25  Amendments to the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals
No. 26  Designation of OIE Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animal diseases
No. 27  Designation of OIE Collaborating Centres
No. 28  Register of diagnostic kits validated and certified by the OIE
No. 29  How OIE can support Veterinary Services to achieve One Health resilience

All the resolutions adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE since 2001
Contributing to global goals through improved sustainability of animal production continues to be one of the overriding objectives of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

There have been global developments on climate change, food consumption patterns, animal welfare or societal expectations for more environmentally friendly animal production. These developments need to be considered along with advances in science and information technology, and the increasing complexity and interrelatedness of systems.

With the COVID-19 crisis, these societal expectations have become even greater, and even more urgent, while other concerns have appeared on the list of priorities. These include issues relating to the surveillance of potential reservoirs of zoonotic pathogens posing a high epidemic risk, especially in wildlife.

Consequently:

- the OIE must exercise its voice in global discussions on these issues, within frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals or the One Health approach, as they have a direct impact on the socio-economic balance of rural families and the sustainability of animal production systems;
- Veterinary Services must be better prepared to respond to these complex, multiple challenges, which require a broader array of knowledge and skills than that usually covered in veterinary schools.
Building on its experience and expertise, and with the support of its network of Reference Centres, the OIE will help to foster the necessary changes so that national Veterinary Services, and more broadly animal health services, are better equipped to anticipate and respond to new expectations.

The 7th Strategic Plan of the OIE shares a global vision and a framework for action for 2021–2025

In preparing the 7th Strategic Plan, we engaged with our Members, partners and staff to define future expectations. In addition, a survey was conducted among our Members to identify the external factors that will influence the activities of Veterinary Services and the adaptations that these factors will require. We have also benefited from the first lessons learnt from the COVID-19 crisis, which do not call into question the relevance of the strategic objectives proposed for the coming years, but lead us to review the prioritisation of their operational implementation. Indeed, the OIE’s activities need to be adapted in light of these issues in order to meet Members’ expectations, in a context where the objectives must remain consistent with the available resources. Together, we have prepared this 7th Strategic Plan, with the aim of contributing to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and together, we will rise to the challenge of implementing it.

OIE Seventh Strategic Plan (2021–2025)
Lessons identified from before and during the pandemic: how the OIE can support Veterinary Services to achieve One Health resilience

Technical item presented during the 88th General Session of the OIE

The report draws on evidence gathered by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), before and during the pandemic, to highlight important areas for the OIE’s core programmatic work.

The first section of the report describes the OIE’s international response to the pandemic. It summarises the results of an interim after-action review which the OIE undertook to learn about its contribution to the pandemic response, particularly its service to Members, and how it could improve.

The second section highlights three areas which have, in recent years, been identified as vulnerabilities in One Health resilience. For each of these three areas – wildlife health, emergency management and laboratory sustainability – the paper describes gaps that have been identified through evidence gathering and analysis. Each subsection also describes activities which the OIE is undertaking to address these vulnerabilities. In addition to highlighting capacity needs, the paper aims to demonstrate the potential value of data, in driving policy direction and improving service delivery, that is collected, systematically by the OIE through OIE-WAHIS and the PVS Pathway; through publicly available information; and through ad hoc surveys and consultations.
The Resolution accompanying this technical item was adopted by the OIE World Assembly of Delegates on 27 May 2021. It provides recommendations on what the OIE can do to address current vulnerabilities to One Health resilience.
Election of the Director General of the OIE. Elections for the OIE Council, Regional and Specialist Commissions

KEYWORDS

#OIE Council, #OIE Director General, #OIE General Session, #OIE Regional Commission, #OIE Specialist Commission, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

All elections during the 88th General Session of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) were organised on 28 May 2021 through a secure remote electronic voting system and were overseen by an independent legal expert. The final report of the 88th General Session provides full details on the process.

**OIE Director General**

Dr Monique Éloit (France) was re-elected as the Director General of the OIE for a period of five years, namely until 30 June 2026.

**OIE Council**

President of the Assembly
Dr Hugo Federico Idoyaga Benítez (Paraguay)
Past President
Dr Mark Schipp (Australia)
Vice-President of the Assembly
Dr Christianne Bruschke (The Netherlands)

**Members of the Council**
Dr Daniel Komla Batawui (Togo)
Dr Roland Xolani Dlamini (Eswatini)
Dr Yobani Gutierrez Ravelo (Cuba)
Dr Him Hoo Yap (Singapore)
Dr Konstantin Savenkov (Russia)
Dr Majid Al Qassimi (United Arab Emirates)

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**OIE Regional Commissions**

**Bureau of the Regional Commission for Africa**

**President**
Dr Honoré Robert N’Lemba Mabela (Dem. Rep. of the Congo)

**Vice-Presidents**
Dr Letlhogile Modisa (Botswana)
Dr Mbargou Lo (Senegal)

**Secretary General**
Dr Anna Rose Ademun Okurut (Uganda)

**Bureau of the Regional Commission for the Americas**

**President**
Dr Jaspinder Komal (Canada)

**Vice-Presidents**
Dr Wilmer Juarez Juarez (Nicaragua)
Dr Ximena Melón (Argentina)

**Secretary General**
Dr Arnold Dwarkasing (Curaçao)

**Bureau of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania**

**President**
Dr Baoxu Huang (People’s Rep. of China)

**Vice-Presidents**
Dr Tony Zohrab (New Zealand)
Dr Masatsugu Okita (Japan)

**Secretary General**
Dr Ye Tun Win (Myanmar)
Bureau of the Regional Commission for Europe

President
Dr Māris Balodis (Latvia)
Vice-Presidents
Dr Ulrich Herzog (Austria)
Dr Vesna Daković (Montenegro)
Secretary General
Dr Vasili Basiladze (Georgia)

Bureau of the Regional Commission for the Middle East

President
Dr Fajer Sabah Al Salloom (Bahrain)
Vice-Presidents
Dr Sanad Al Harbi (Saudi Arabia)
Dr Abdul Hakim Mahmoud Ali (Egypt)
Secretary General
Dr Elias Ibrahim (Lebanon)

OIE Specialist Commissions

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

President
Dr Étienne Bonbon (France)
Vice-Presidents
Dr Gastón Funes (Argentina)
Dr Salah Hammami (Tunisia)
Members of the Commission
Dr Kiyokazu Murai (Japan)
Dr Lucio Carbajo Goñi (Spain)
Dr Bernardo Todeschini (Brazil)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

President
Dr Cristobal Zepeda (United States of America)
Vice-Presidents
Dr Kris De Clercq (Belgium)
Dr Trevor Drew (Australia)
Members of the Commission
Dr Silvia Bellini (Italy)
Dr Baptiste Dungu (South Africa)
Dr Mischke Mulumba (Zambia)

**Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission**

**President**
Dr Ingo Ernst (Australia)

**Vice-Presidents**
Dr Alicia Gallardo Lagno (Chile)
Dr Fiona Geoghegan (Ireland)

**Members of the Commission**
Dr Kevin Christison (South Africa)
Dr Espen Rimstad (Norway)
Dr Hong Liu (People’s Republic of China)

**Biological Standards Commission**

**President**
Dr Emmanuel Couacy-Hymann (Côte d’Ivoire)

**Vice-Presidents**
Dr Ann Cullinane (Ireland)
Dr John Pasick (Canada)

**Members of the Commission**
Dr Joseph S. O’Keefe (New Zealand)
Dr Chris Oura (Trinidad and Tobago)
Dr Satoko Kawaji (Japan)

General organisation
Each Regional Commission of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) organises a Conference every two years. These Conferences are devoted to technical items and to regional cooperation in animal health, animal welfare and animal production food safety issues within the region.

In May 2021, during the 88th General Session of the World Assembly of OIE Delegates, the President confirmed that the Assembly had noted the activity reports of the Commissions and endorsed the recommendations of the 31st Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Sendai, Japan, 2–6 September 2019) and the 15th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East (Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 10–14 November 2019).

However, due to the adaptation to a virtual format of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (22–23 September 2020), the 29th Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe (9–10 November 2020) and the 24th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa (9-11 February 2021), the traditional technical items that would normally have been presented and discussed for the elaboration of recommendations, were not included in the agenda of these Conferences (reduced agenda). Thus, no recommendations were developed during these Conferences.
Commissions held during the OIE General Sessions since 2001
Activities of the OIE Specialist Commissions

**KEYWORDS**

#OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, #OIE Biological Standards Commission, #OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases, #OIE Specialist Commission, #OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

Report of the meeting of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission) held from 2 to 11 February 2021.

Report of the meeting of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (SCAD) held from 1 to 11 February 2021.

Report of the meeting of the OIE Biological Standards Commission (BSC) held on 8, 9, 11 and 12 February 2021.

Report of the meeting of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission held from 17 to 24 February 2021.

More information about OIE Specialist Commissions
Activities of the OIE Working Groups

KEYWORDS


Photo by James Hammond on Unsplash

Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance

Founded in 2019, this Working Group was established to support the implementation of the OIE Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials and the organisation’s capacity to respond to global challenges according to its mandate.


Working Group on Wildlife

Founded in 1994, this Working Group informs and advises the OIE on all health problems relating to wild animals, whether in the wild or in captivity. It has prepared recommendations and oversees numerous scientific publications on the surveillance and control of the most important specific wildlife diseases.

♦ Reports of the meetings of the OIE Working Group on Wildlife held from 1 to 4 December 2020 and from 15 to 18 June 2021.

More information about OIE Working Groups
EXPERT REPORTS

AD HOC GROUPS

Activities of *ad hoc* groups

**KEYWORDS**

#OIE *ad hoc* group, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

*Photo: © François Diaz*

*Ad hoc* groups are convened to support the work of OIE Specialist Commissions.

Meeting calendar and reports are available [here](#).
ANIMAL HEALTH

Transparency: submitting disease notifications and regular reports to the OIE

Notification process and update on the annual report and voluntary report on wildlife

KEYWORDS

#data management, #OIE-WAHIS, #transparency, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

The new OIE World Animal Health Information System, better known as OIE-WAHIS, is an internet-based computer system that processes data on animal diseases, of both domestic animals and wildlife, in real time. The data – which covers OIE-listed diseases, emerging diseases and zoonoses – is gathered by the Veterinary Services of OIE Members and non-member countries and territories.

The information can be publicly accessed at https://wahis.oie.int/#/home. In addition, the OIE disseminates this information to its Members and to the international community through the OIE-WAHIS Distribution list. Reporting access to this secure site is only available to OIE Delegates and Chief Veterinary Officers or to their nominees (‘focal points’).

The new system, which replaces its predecessor, WAHIS, was launched in March 2021, with two main modules:

a. An early warning system to collect and inform the international community, by means of immediate notifications and follow-up reports, of relevant epidemiological events that have occurred in OIE Member and non-member countries.

b. A monitoring system to monitor OIE-listed diseases in terrestrial and aquatic animals (presence or absence) over time, by collecting six-monthly reports from OIE Members.

The new public interface includes tools to facilitate data consultation (dashboards and interactive mapping tools)
and tools to make it easier to extract officially validated animal health data.

The OIE–WAHIS system has continued to evolve since its launch. New functionalities are being added and performance is gradually improving. The OIE and the European Commission are currently running the Animal Disease Information System (ADIS) project to establish connectivity between OIE–WAHIS and the European Union (EU) regional animal disease platform in order to create a single data entry point for EU Member States. There are plans to launch new components so that the whole range of reports and information that countries send to the OIE can be submitted via OIE–WAHIS. Work is currently underway to develop the annual report module (to report additional information on zoonoses, animal populations, the veterinary workforce, etc.). The module for the voluntary report on non-OIE-listed diseases in wildlife will be developed in 2022, and it will be of pivotal importance in meeting one of the objectives of the OIE Wildlife Health Framework, namely, better transparency and accuracy in reporting diseases in wildlife. These and other upcoming improvements will align with the priorities of the OIE digital transformation strategy, which itself is aligned with the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan.
New OIE standard operating procedures

KEYWORDS

#animal disease, #disease status, #emerging pathogen, #emerging viral disease, #emerging zoonosis, #OIE-listed disease, #self-declaration, #standard operating procedure, #Terrestrial Animal Health Code, #transparency, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

Standard operating procedure for listing decisions for pathogenic agents of terrestrial animals

This procedure describes the process to be followed for assessing a pathogenic agent of terrestrial animals against the criteria in Chapter 1.2. of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code for decisions regarding inclusion in the OIE List in Chapter 1.3.

[ View the procedure (October 2020) ]

Standard operating procedure for determining if a disease should be considered as emerging disease

This procedure describes the process to be followed for determining if a disease meets the Terrestrial Animal Health Code definition for an emerging disease and the consequent actions until the scientific information available is sufficient to support a fully informed assessment against the listing criteria as described in Chapter 1.2. of the Terrestrial Code.

[ View the procedure (March 2021) ]
Standard operating procedure on the publication of the self-declaration of animal health status of Members

This procedure describes the process for the preparation, screening and publication of self-declarations of freedom from any disease (other than those diseases for which the OIE has put in place a specific procedure for official recognition of animal health status).

[ View the procedure (June 2021) ]
Recognition of the disease status of OIE Members or endorsement of official control programmes

88th OIE General Session, 24–28 May 2021

KEYWORDS

#disease status, #OIE General Session, #resolution, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

- Recognition of the **foot and mouth disease (FMD)** status of Members: [Resolution no. 13 dated 27 May 2021](#)
- Endorsement of official control programmes for **foot and mouth disease (FMD)** of Members: [Resolution no. 14 dated 27 May 2021](#)
- Recognition of the **contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP)** status of Members: [Resolution no. 15 dated 27 May 2021](#)
- Endorsement of official control programmes for **contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP)** of Members: [Resolution no. 16 dated 27 May 2021](#)
- Recognition of the **bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)** risk status of Members: [Resolution no. 17 dated 27 May 2021](#)
- Recognition of the **African horse sickness (AHS)** status of Members: [Resolution no. 18 dated 27 May 2021](#)
- Recognition of the **peste des petits ruminants (PPR)** status of Members:
Resolution no. 19 dated 27 May 2021

- Recognition of the **classical swine fever (CSF)** status of Members: Resolution no. 20 dated 27 May 2021

- Endorsement of official control programmes for **dog-mediated rabies** of Members: Resolution no. 21 dated 27 May 2021

- **First addendum to Resolution No. 15 of 29 May 2020** on the ‘Procedures for Members for the official recognition and maintenance of animal health status of certain animal diseases or risk status of bovine spongiform encephalopathy and for the endorsement of official control programmes’: Resolution no. 22 dated 28 May 2021

- **First addendum to Resolution No. 16 of 29 May 2020** on the ‘Costs to be covered by Members applying for the official recognition of animal health status of certain animal diseases or risk status of bovine spongiform encephalopathy and the endorsement of official control programmes’: Resolution no. 23 dated 28 May 2021
Developing case definitions for OIE-listed diseases for terrestrial animals

KEYWORDS


The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) maintains a list of terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases that are of international concern owing to their effect on animal or human health, and OIE Members are obliged to notify the OIE when any OIE-listed disease (or infection, or infestation) is detected in their country, zone or compartment. In turn, the OIE disseminates this information to other Members, so that they can take the necessary actions to prevent the transboundary spread of these animal diseases.

It is important that OIE Members share a common understanding of what constitutes a ‘case’ for the purposes of notification - the case definition - so that the occurrence and distribution of confirmed cases can be notified consistently among Members and over time. The Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code) does not yet include a case definition for all OIE-listed terrestrial diseases, which could result in poor or inconsistent notification of disease events. To address this, and to assist Members in meeting their notification obligations, the OIE is working in collaboration with subject-matter experts to develop case definitions for those OIE-listed diseases where this information is absent or incomplete in the Terrestrial Code. The case definitions will eventually be incorporated in the Terrestrial Code through the OIE standard-setting process, in accordance with the prioritised work programme of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission. In the interim they will be made...
publicly available on the OIE website after the endorsement of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases.

The development of these case definitions supports the initiative of the OIE to codify information included in notifications submitted by OIE Members in the World Animal Health Information System (OIE-WAHIS). Accurate codification allows identification and consistent classification of core information, key components of which (including pathogenic agent and host species) are captured by the case definitions.
OFFICIAL ACTS

NEW DELEGATES

1 November 2021
SWEDEN
Dr Lena Hellqvist Björnerot
Chief Veterinary Officer, Swedish Board of Agriculture, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

4 October 2021
ECUADOR
Eng. Carlos Alberto Muentes Macías
Director Ejecutivo, Agencia de Regulación y Control Fito y Zoosanitario AGROCALIDAD

8 September 2021
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
Dr Kaltham Ali Kayaf
Head of Laboratory Pesticides Analysis and Residues Section, National Laboratories, Ministry of Climate Change and Environment

23 August 2021
CÔTE D’IVOIRE
Dr Vessaly Kallo
Directeur des Services vétérinaires, Ministère des ressources animales et halieutiques

6 August 2021
ECUADOR
Eng. Rommel Anibal Betancourt Herrera
Director Ejecutivo, Agencia de Regulación y Control Fito y Zoosanitario AGROCALIDAD

23 July 2021
KOREA (REP. OF)
Dr Dongsik Lee
Chief Veterinary Officer, Director, Animal Health Policy Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

21 July 2021
KYRGYZSTAN
Mr Almaz Sharshenbekov
Director, State Inspectorate of Veterinary and Phyto-Sanitary Security

1 July 2021
ETHIOPIA
Dr Fikru Regassa Gari
State Minister, Livestock Resources Development Sector, Ministry of Agriculture

28 June 2021
CANADA
Dr Mary Jane Ireland
Chief Veterinary Officer, Executive Director, Animal Health Directorate, Canadian Food Inspection Agency

21 June 2021
FRANCE
Dr Emmanuelle Soubeyran
Directrice générale adjointe, Direction générale de l’alimentation, Ministère de l’agriculture et de l’alimentation

9 June 2021
BURKINA FASO
Dr Adama Maiga
Directeur général des Services vétérinaires, Ministère des ressources animales et halieutiques

7 June 2021
VANUATU
Dr Ian Peebles
Acting Principal Veterinary Officer, Biosecurity Vanuatu, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity
7 June 2021
ECUADOR
Dr Julio César Paredes Muñoz
Director Ejecutivo, AGROCALIDAD, Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería

1 June 2021
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
Dr Saša Bošković
Chief Veterinary Officer, Director of the Veterinary Office, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations

24 May 2021
POLAND
Dr Krzysztof Jażdżewski
Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer, General Veterinary Inspectorate, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

7 May 2021
BOLIVIA
Dr Patrick Renán Nogales Mejía
Director General Ejecutivo, Servicio Nacional de Sanidad Agropecuaria e Inocuidad Alimentaria, Ministerio de Desarrollo Rural y Tierras

5 May 2021
MAURITIUS
Dr Pitmbarsing Beeharry
Principal Veterinary Officer, Livestock and Veterinary Division, Agricultural Services, Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security

3 May 2021
TUNISIA
Dr Hichem Bouzghaia
Directeur général, Services vétérinaires, Ministère de l’agriculture, des ressources hydrauliques et de la pêche

30 April 2021
KYRGYZSTAN
Dr Samir Osmonaliev
Director, State Inspectorate of Veterinary and Phyto-Sanitary Security

28 April 2021
LITHUANIA
Dr Mantas Staškevičius
Director, State Food and Veterinary Service

28 April 2021
JAPAN
Dr Masatsugu Okita
Director of International Animal Health Affairs Office, Animal Health Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

22 April 2021
URUGUAY
Dr Enrique Diego De Freitas Netto
Director General, Dirección General de Servicios Ganaderos, Ministerio de Ganadería, Agricultura y Pesca

19 April 2021
MONGOLIA
Dr Ganzorig Basan
Chief Veterinary Officer, Director General, General Authority for Veterinary Services, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry

13 April 2021
BURUNDI
Dr Désiré Ntakirutimana
Directeur, Département de la santé animale, Ministère de l’agriculture et de l’élevage

6 April 2021
GHANA
Dr Patrick Abakeh
Chief Veterinary Officer, Veterinary Service Directorate, Ministry of Food and Agriculture
4 April 2021
BANGLADESH
Dr Shaikh Azizur Rahman
Director General, Department of Livestock Services (DLS), Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock

2 April 2021
SRI LANKA
Dr Kasthuri Arachchige Chandrika Hemali Abeyratne Kothalawala
Director General, Department of Animal Production and Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Economic Affairs, Livestock Development, Irrigation & Fisheries

29 March 2021
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Dr Burke Healey
Deputy Administrator, United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Veterinary Services (USDA-APHIS-VS)

26 March 2021
CABO VERDE
Dr Ana Lina Pereira De Barros Olende
Directrice, Services de l'élevage, Ministère de l'agriculture et de l'environnement

15 March 2021
SURINAME
Dr Faizel Wilnis
Chief Veterinary Officer, Department of Animal Production and Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries
NEW OIE REFERENCE LABORATORIES

African swine fever

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This new OIE Reference Laboratory focuses mainly on diagnosis, surveillance and research on African swine fever (ASF), running under a quality assurance system accredited to ISO/IEC 17025:2005. The laboratory applies multiple tools to its activities, including PCR, genotyping, genome sequencing, virus isolation and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays for ASF. The laboratory drafted and modified the national diagnostic standards and the national plan for the prevention and control of ASF and is therefore able to provide training courses on diagnosis, surveillance and field investigation for ASF. It can also provide assistance to OIE Members in capacity building for these purposes. Finally, the laboratory has animal biosafety level 3 facilities, which can be used for in-vivo studies or vaccine development.

Avian influenza

Dr Abdelsatar Arafa
Reference Laboratory for Veterinary Quality Control on Poultry Production
Animal Health Research Institute
Agricultural Research Center
THE OFFICIAL 2021-1

Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation
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Dokki, Giza
EGYPT
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This new OIE Reference Laboratory will receive samples and provide diagnostic testing services for avian influenza. The laboratory will provide training in the diagnosis of avian influenza in response to requests from OIE Members. It can also support OIE Members through scientific and technical consultations on disease diagnosis and laboratory examinations. Finally, the laboratory will supply diagnostic materials to OIE Members for disease detection and serotyping.

Bovine viral diarrhoea

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Federal Research Institute for Animal Health
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E-mail: kerstin.wernike@fli.de

This new OIE Reference Laboratory focuses on diagnosis and research related to bovine viral diarrhoea virus and other ruminant pestiviruses. It can perform diagnostic investigations involving genome detection, subtyping, sequencing, antigen detection, virus isolation and serology. This laboratory also organises inter-laboratory proficiency tests. The Reference Laboratory has extensive experience in the eradication of bovine viral diarrhoea and in the determination of freedom from the disease. It also provides technical consultations on the prevention and control of bovine viral diarrhoea.

Brucellosis (Brucella abortus, B. melitensis)

Dr Mahmoud Hamdy
This new OIE Reference Laboratory is devoted to surveillance, diagnosis, research and control programmes for brucellosis (Brucella abortus and B. melitensis). A variety of standard serological tests in addition to bacteriological/polymerase chain reaction identification of Brucella to the species/biovar level are undertaken. Diagnostic testing is performed under a quality assurance system certified to ISO/IEC 9001:2015 and accredited to ISO/IEC 17025:2017. The laboratory provides reference reagents, as well as consultation/training via an accredited training and consultation centre. The Reference Laboratory has the capacity to perform in-vivo studies on brucellosis in a biosafety level 3 animal house facility.

Contagious equine metritis

Dr Sandrine Petry
ANSES – Laboratoire de santé animale, site de Normandie
Unité de physiopathologie et d’épidémiologie des maladies équines
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This new OIE Reference Laboratory, which is also the European Union Reference Laboratory for equine diseases (other than African horse sickness), including contagious equine metritis, has the expertise and resources for laboratory diagnostics and research on contagious equine metritis. Diagnostic tests are based on bacteriology, immunofluorescence and real-time PCR methods, which are accredited to ISO/IEC 17025:2017. This laboratory provides anti-Taylorella equigenitalis serum for the slide agglutination test and identifies strains of the genus Taylorella. It is also able to organise inter-laboratory testing and can provide scientific and technical assistance, and training, in the diagnosis of contagious equine metritis.

Equine influenza
This new OIE Reference Laboratory provides diagnosis, consultation and research for the prevention and control of equine influenza. The Equine Research Institute is owned by the Japan Racing Association, which is the horse racing authority in Japan. The laboratory has provided the OIE Expert Surveillance Panel on Equine Influenza Vaccine Composition with information on antigenic analysis using horse antisera. Additionally, the laboratory can supply horse antisera against H3N8 equine influenza virus for serological testing and positive controls for reverse-transcription PCR.

NEW OIE COLLABORATING CENTRES

Economics of animal health

Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Food Systems
Global Burden of Animal Diseases (GBADs) Programme
Institute of Infection, Veterinary and Ecological Sciences
University of Liverpool
UNITED KINGDOM
Tel. +44 151 794 61 13
E-mail: j.rushton@liverpool.ac.uk
Website-1: www.liverpool.ac.uk/centre-for-sustainable-food-systems/
Website-2: www.liverpool.ac.uk/infection-veterinary-and-ecological-sciences/

This multi-national OIE Collaborating Centre will include participation from the following institutions:

Norwegian Veterinary Institute
P.O. Box 750 Sentrum
0106 Oslo
NORWAY
Tel. +47 91 61 85 87
E-mail: edgar.brun@vetinst.no
Website: www.vetinst.no

Department of Population Health Sciences
Utrecht University
THE NETHERLANDS
The OIE Collaborating Centre for Economics of Animal Health will focus on the systematic use of and training in methods related to the economics of animal health with outcomes that are aligned with the Global Burden of Animal Diseases (GBADs) programme. Therefore, the Collaborating Centre will specialise in the following three areas:

- improving methods to estimate animal disease and health burdens, including information on where they occur, who is affected, and the causes and risk factors;
- improving access to and standardisation of animal disease and health burden information through the development of a shared, cloud-based knowledge engine;
- improving the capacity to interpret and use information on animal diseases and health burdens.

This will be achieved by a multi-disciplinary team of economists, epidemiologists, veterinary clinicians, computer scientists and educators. The team will include early career researchers and provide PhD opportunities as it aims to increase expertise in the discipline of animal health economics.

**Good beekeeping management practices and biosecurity measures in the apiculture sector**

The Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Lazio e della Toscana (IZSLT) is one of ten Italian Governmental Institutes working within the Ministry of Health network to perform laboratory analysis, research, epidemiological surveillance and international cooperation activities in animal and public health, food safety, and livestock health and production.

The Centre supports the OIE by assisting its Members in various activities related to the application of good beekeeping management practices and biosecurity measures in the apiculture sector. The Centre aims to increase the quality of hive production by encouraging the proper and prudent use of medicines in beekeeping, in line with the OIE 6th Strategic Plan.

The main focus area of this OIE Collaborating Centre is animal health management, including:
- bee diseases
- good beekeeping practices
- biosecurity measures in beekeeping
- early detection of bee diseases
- monitoring bee health
- innovation in the prevention and control of bee diseases, including sustainable approaches
- coordination of experimental activities and field trials in different countries to monitor innovative approaches
- diagnosis of bee diseases in the field
- proper use of antimicrobials in bees and antimicrobial resistance.

It also focuses on aspects of bee diseases that have a potential impact on humans:
- infant botulism
- allergies and intoxications caused by plant alkaloids (pollen)
- aspergillosis
- residues in hive products
- epidemiology, monitoring and surveillance of honey bee diseases
- risk assessment.

(1) List of main focus areas and specialties for OIE Collaborating Centres
The OIE is an international organisation created in 1924 with a mandate from its 182 Members to improve animal health and welfare. Its activities are permanently supported by 329 centres of scientific expertise and 13 regional offices with a presence on every continent.

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