

RESOLUTION No. 31

**How the OIE can support Veterinary Services to achieve One Health resilience**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The OIE is the leading international standard setting body for animal health and zoonoses. The organisation plays an important role individually, and collectively with other international partners (particularly the World Health Organization [WHO], the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations [FAO] and the United Nations Environment Programme [UNEP]), in promoting a One Health approach,
2. Veterinary Services play an essential role in the prevention of zoonotic disease emergence and in ensuring food security. They are fundamental to implementing a One Health approach,
3. Resilience encompasses *the ability to prepare and plan for, absorb, recover from, and more successfully adapt to adverse events*,
4. Animal health (including wildlife health), balanced ecosystems, and biodiversity contribute to achieving One Health. One Health considers the interconnectivity between the health of humans, animals, plants and their shared ecosystems,
5. Evidence gathered by the OIE through programme activities, OIE Collaborating Centres, analysis of PVS and OIE-WAHIS data, Member questionnaires, and surveys, and through stakeholder consultation has identified vulnerabilities in One Health resilience,
6. Increased contact between humans, wildlife and livestock as a result of human activities; in some areas, habitat loss, human encroachment into natural areas, and land-use change (such as agricultural expansion and deforestation); some food production systems which could be unsustainable; climate change; illegal wildlife or non-regulated trade; an increase in interconnections between countries as a result of globalization; and some patterns of consumption; are all factors contributing to increase the risk of zoonotic disease emergence and spread,
7. Wildlife is a vital resource, providing essential ecosystem services, a source of biodiversity, and economic revenue through tourism and trade. Managing the risk of disease emergence and protecting wildlife health should be complementary,
8. Although Veterinary Services have responsibilities regarding wildlife health, they are often not the lead agency, and multisectoral collaboration could be improved in areas such as surveillance, information sharing, and disease management. Veterinary Services need support because in many countries they face challenges in addressing wildlife health,
9. In consultation with Members, experts and key partners, the OIE has developed a Wildlife Health Framework, which aims (1) to improve OIE Members' ability to manage the risk of pathogen emergence in wildlife and transmission of zoonotic diseases at the human—animal—ecosystem interface, whilst taking into account the protection of wildlife, and (2) to support OIE Members to improve surveillance systems, early detection, notification and management of wildlife diseases,

10. The OIE developed the OIE Biological Threat Reduction Strategy following the 1st Global Conference on Biological Threat Reduction in June 2015 held in Paris, France, after which progress and new priorities were discussed during the 2nd OIE Global Conference in 2017 in Ottawa, Canada, including priorities in emergency preparedness and sustainable laboratories,
11. The OIE has identified gaps in the emergency management capacity of some Members, including a lack of available resources; a failure to integrate Veterinary Services into national emergency management frameworks; shortcomings in multisectoral collaboration; weaknesses in early warning systems and their link to action to prevent local outbreaks escalating further; and gaps in emergency planning and exercising,
12. Diagnostic laboratories (and their networks) are an essential component of health systems both in terms of supporting business as usual and response to emergencies. Evidence shows that, globally, diagnostic laboratories are facing multiple challenges which impact on their sustainability, undermining their performance, safety and security,
13. In partnership, the OIE, WHO, FAO and UNEP have established a One Health High Level Expert Panel to advise the four organizations on scientific evidence to support risk management at the human—animal—environment interface,
14. Several Heads of State and WHO have signalled their intention to work towards an international legal instrument for pandemic preparedness and response which would aim to foster a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach to strengthen national, regional and global capacities and resilience to future pandemics.

#### THE ASSEMBLY

#### RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Members should seek to ensure that wildlife health management is integrated with national One Health and conservation strategies, including multisectoral information sharing; work closely with all relevant stakeholders, for example wildlife and environment authorities, during strategy design and implementation; and ensure that appropriate governance structures are established to support integration;
2. Members should support a greater global understanding of the epidemiology and impact of pathogens in wildlife through strengthening national surveillance systems and thereby improve the global understanding of the overall burden of animal disease; by complying with the mandatory requirement to report OIE Listed diseases in wildlife in accordance with the relevant chapters of the *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Animal Health Codes*; by identifying and notifying emerging diseases in wildlife in accordance with requirements in Articles 1.1.4 and 1.1.6 of the *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Animal Health Codes*; and, by voluntarily sharing data on non-OIE listed diseases in wildlife in their Annual Wildlife Health reports;
3. Members should encourage research and development, innovation and education, and share scientific knowledge to support One Health risk mitigation strategies;
4. Members should develop prevention strategies with stakeholders, in particular local communities and decision-makers, through a participatory approach to ensure empowerment of communities in developing innovative solutions and their adoption for the benefit of all;

5. Members should encourage collaboration, information sharing and coordinated action amongst international partners to support new and existing approaches to improve the prevention, early detection, and control of emerging zoonotic infectious diseases at national and international level;
6. Members should take a multisectoral approach to emergency management; consider all-hazards approaches to emergency planning which include terrestrial and aquatic animals, and wildlife; and regularly exercise their emergency plans, involving other sectors, to test them for fitness for purpose;
7. Members should continue to ensure that trade measures in response to an emerging disease have a scientific justification, and those relating to OIE-listed disease occurrences in wildlife are in accordance with OIE international standards;
8. Members should consider weaknesses in sustainability of laboratories and work with the OIE to develop solutions, including through engaging voluntarily in the OIE PVS Sustainable Laboratory evaluation and planning process, and availing themselves of the capacity development opportunities through the OIE Laboratory Twinning Programme, OIE Training Platform and the Global Laboratory Leadership Programme;
9. To achieve sustainability, Veterinary Services should consider their resource requirements and advocate for investments, with support of the PVS Pathway, in core functions including emergency management, laboratories and wildlife health management;
10. The OIE should continue to promote and advocate for the central role of Veterinary Services in One Health resilience;
11. The OIE should develop, integrate, and strengthen wildlife health management, emergency preparedness and management, and the sustainability of laboratories into its core programmatic work to support Members and improve global capacity;
12. The OIE should seek resources for and implement the OIE Wildlife Health Framework, recognising the need and encouraging the parallel development of the evidence base for policy interventions designed to achieve the required changes in behaviour and health risk management in wildlife trade supply chains;
13. The OIE should strengthen existing partnerships in the wildlife and environment sectors, including with UNEP, and, where appropriate, develop new partnerships to implement the Wildlife Health Framework;
14. The OIE should continue to engage in policy dialogue with Members and Partners, including multilateral fora, aimed at improving the understanding of the relationships between animal health (including wildlife health), animal welfare, veterinary public health, human health, and ecosystems health through the One Health approach and the contribution these make to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;
15. The OIE should closely follow and collaborate with the WHO, FAO and UNEP to ensure the international legal instrument for pandemic preparedness and response, if progressed, is well grounded in the One Health approach and promotes a continuous improvement approach to the intelligence systems, response mechanisms, evaluation processes and capacity development tools made available for our Members' benefit;
16. The OIE should continue to advocate the importance of including Veterinary Services, which are a global public good, in multisectoral cross government emergency management frameworks and provide support to Veterinary Services to better engage in such frameworks, for example by supporting advocacy;

17. The OIE should continue to work with partners, including CITES, INTERPOL and FAO and other key actors, to reduce disease risks from agro-crime and illegal and legal trade in wildlife;
  18. The OIE should consider long-term sustainability as a core objective in its capacity building programmes and encourage technical and development partners to adopt such considerations in programme design and management;
  19. The OIE should continue to work with partners to develop solutions to improve the sustainability of laboratories;
  20. The OIE should also continue to systematise the use of data in informing needs and monitoring and evaluating the impact of its activities and programmes in alignment with the 7th Strategic Plan to improve data governance;
  21. The OIE and its Members should embrace a holistic systems-based approach to One Health to seek solutions that optimise health outcomes for animals, humans and the environment, which considers the implications of other global threats such as climate change, and the other many challenges beyond the mandate of the OIE.
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