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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
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WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

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INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES OF THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE) RELEVANT TO CODEX WORK

(Submitted by OIE)

1. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) would like to thank the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) for the continued opportunity to participate in its Commission and Committees meetings. We trust the CAC shares with us the positive perception of this collaboration.
2. The OIE develops international standards that can be used by its 167 Member Countries to protect themselves from the introduction of diseases and pathogens arising from animals and animal products, without setting up unjustified trade barriers.
3. OIE standards are recognised by the World Trade Organization (WTO) as international references for animal health and zoonoses. They are prepared by elected Specialist Commissions and by Working Groups bringing together internationally renowned scientists, most of whom are experts within the network of 181 OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories that also contribute towards the scientific objectives of the OIE. These standards are adopted by the International Committee, which is composed of the 167 OIE Delegates. The OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (in brief, the *Terrestrial Code*) houses the OIE international standards for terrestrial animals and their products.
4. Recognising the usefulness of the normative framework provided by the WTO, the OIE is keen to formalise its collaboration with the CAC. In this respect, the OIE has already renewed its cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) by ratifying two new mutual agreements. Within this cooperation and on request of the Codex Executive Committee, FAO and WHO will continue discussions with OIE on how to foster relationship between Codex and OIE. The resulting synergies will benefit all organisations.

5. This collaboration should be facilitated by the fact that almost all OIE Member Countries are also CAC Member Countries. The OIE would like to encourage the CAC Delegates to coordinate points of common interest in the fields of animal health and food safety with their national counterpart, the OIE Delegate. A framework paper on the “Cooperation between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the OIE on food safety throughout the food chain” is provided at [Appendix I](#). A list of OIE Official Delegates is provided in [Appendix II](#).

6. To help coordination between the CAC and the OIE, the OIE Member Countries gave the Director General a mandate to constitute the OIE Animal Production Food Safety Working Group. Its current membership includes high-level current and former Codex Alimentarius office holders, the Director of the Food Safety Department, Zoonoses and Foodborne Diseases of the WHO, the Chief of the Animal Health Service of the FAO and experts from OIE Member Countries of all Regions.

7. The Working Group's primary role is to act as a steering committee in the OIE's work programme on the development of standards aimed at protecting consumers from food-borne hazards arising from animals, at the production level of the food chain. The Working Group held its 5th meeting in January 2006 (a summary report is provided in [Appendix III](#)). Through this Working Group, the OIE has been working on the following topics of interest for the CAC:

- a) The OIE Working Group guided the drafting of a chapter for the *Terrestrial Code* on “Identification and Traceability of Live Animals”. This chapter has just been adopted as an international standard by the OIE International Committee (a copy is attached at [Appendix IV](#)). The OIE welcomes the finalisation of the text prepared by the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification (CCFICS) on the “Proposed draft principles for traceability/product tracing as a tool within a food inspection and certification system” and its timely proposal of adoption by the CAC at step 5/8. The OIE has coordinated its work with the CAC in order to minimise gaps and duplication. To continue this coordination work the OIE provided additional comments on the Codex Alimentarius Circular Letter 2005/54-FICS. The OIE is now putting together the main points that constitute a system for identification and traceability for live animals to guide Member Countries in setting up a proper animal identification and traceability system.
- b) The Working Group developed the above mentioned document on the “Cooperation between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the OIE on food safety throughout the food chain”. This document provides an introduction on how to address the “production-to-consumption” continuum from a regulatory point of view and constitutes a framework document for subsequent documents on the roles and functionalities of veterinary services in food safety. This document is presented at [Appendix I](#).
- c) Following this framework document (see point b) and the parallel work underway in the Codex Committee on Meat and Poultry Hygiene (CCMH), the Working Group prepared an appendix for the *Terrestrial Code* on “Guidelines for the Control of Biological Hazards of Animal Health and Public Health Importance through *Ante-* and *Post-Mortem* Meat Inspection”. This appendix complements and refers to the Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat adopted by the CAC last year. This appendix has just been adopted as an international standard by the OIE International Committee (a copy is attached at [Appendix V](#)).
- d) In the process of updating its model certificates, the OIE has been working with the CCFICS and the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk (CCMMP) to provide a comprehensive approach to the certification process of the food chain. A summary of activities is provided at [Appendix VI](#).

- e) In the field of antimicrobial resistance, the OIE has participated in the discussions in the CAC and in the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food (CCRVDF). The OIE replied to the Codex Alimentarius Circular Letter 2005/33-CAC and refers to it for more details. The OIE has also finalised the list of veterinary critically important antimicrobials as requested by the FAO/OIE/WHO workshop on non human antimicrobial usage. Additional details are provided in [Appendix VII](#).
- f) The OIE is setting up an expert group to develop draft standards on salmonellosis in poultry to complement the ongoing work of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH). The standards will address methods for the detection of *Salmonella* spp. in flocks, measures for control and eradication, as well as risk mitigation measures for affected commodities (see [Appendix II](#) for more details).
- g) The OIE is further developing its standards on animal feeding through the setting up of an expert group that will take into account what is already present in the *Terrestrial Code*. The OIE Animal Production Food Safety Working Group will ensure that the Codex “Recommended Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding” is also taken into account in order to make the standards complementary (see [Appendix II](#) for more details).

8. The OIE held its 74th General Session from 21 to 26 May 2006. It is the annual meeting during which the International Committee, which is the general assembly of all Delegates of OIE Member Countries, votes for adoption of proposed OIE International Standards; it also provides the OIE with guidance on its future work. It unanimously adopted Resolution No. XXII on Animal Production Food Safety which describes the future work of the OIE in this field in the short term. The Resolution is appended in [Appendix VIII](#) for the information of the CAC.

Appendix I**Cooperation between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the OIE on Food Safety throughout the Food Chain****1. Introduction**

Food safety is an issue of increasing concern world wide and prioritisation of food safety as an essential public health function was advocated recently by the World Health Assembly. Better monitoring and surveillance demonstrates that the main burden of food-borne disease is due to microbiological pathogens of animal origin and this has important implications for the veterinary profession at both the international and national levels. The possibility of chemical residues in food is also causing growing anxiety amongst consumers.

In a contemporary food safety environment, veterinarians and other health professionals have an essential and rapidly changing role in the prevention and control of food-borne zoonoses (even when animals are not clinically affected), other sources of food-borne disease and chemical contaminants of food. In many situations, this role is achieved in parallel to prevention and control of diseases and conditions of animal health importance.

A 'production-to-consumption', risk-based approach to food control demands integrated involvement throughout the food chain¹. Where zoonoses are concerned, it is clear that there is an overlap between public health and animal health objectives, and a duality of veterinary functions. Veterinary competence can also be shared even when public health and animal health objectives are separate and distinct, and a number of countries are exploring such synergies in the reform of regulatory systems.

The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has a SPS responsibility for elaborating standards and related texts for the prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases and zoonoses, while the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) elaborates standards and related texts for both safety and suitability aspects of food control. CAC and the OIE have strategies and mechanisms in place to co-ordinate and integrate food safety activities across the production to consumption continuum and so enhance the safety of food of animal origin on a world-wide basis. A part of OIE's strategy was the setting up of a permanent Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety to review, develop and/or contribute to international food safety standards and guidelines, incorporating good animal production practice (including veterinary aspects) as it relates to food safety and taking into account a risk-based 'production to consumption' approach.

With regard to strategies and mechanisms to integrate and implement food safety activities and develop good animal production practices, the OIE and the CAC work in close collaboration and with the support of the specialised services in FAO and WHO².

The OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety has developed a work programme to enhance the effectiveness of Veterinary Services³ in improving food safety at both the international and national levels. The Working Group will advise the Director General on implementation of the OIE strategy regarding⁴:

- a) considering all food-borne hazards arising from animals according to global food safety priorities;

¹ Production could be interpreted in such a broad manner as to cover food producing animals, feed, fertilisers, pesticides, veterinary drugs and any input of plant or animal origin, etc. If relevant for specific applications of traceability/product tracing to food.

² A tripartite FAO/WHO/OIE mechanism has been established for improved cooperation between the three organisations.

³ For the purposes of this paper, 'Veterinary Services' is an Official Inspection System as defined in the CAC Guidelines for the Design, Operation, Assessment and Accreditation of Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems. In OIE, "Veterinary Services" means the Veterinary Administration, all the Veterinary Authorities, and all persons authorised, registered or licensed by the Veterinary statutory body.

⁴ Report of the meeting of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Food Safety. Paris, 18-19 April 2002.

- b) reviewing OIE outputs to ensure animal production food safety is integrated in OIE Specialist Commissions and *ad hoc* Group activities;
- c) fully contributing to food standards development by CAC.

This paper proposes an approach on the inter-related roles and functionality of Veterinary Services in the outputs of OIE and CAC.

2. Elements of the contemporary food safety environment

2.1 Risk analysis

The emergence of risk-based approaches in elaboration of international standards has been highly influenced by the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement). A primary tenet of this Agreement is that “Members shall ensure that their sanitary and phytosanitary measures are based on an assessment, as appropriate to the circumstances, of the risks to human, animal, or plant life or health, taking into account risk assessment techniques developed by the relevant international organisations”.

In developing the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, OIE focuses on standards for specified hazards of biological origin. In contrast, CAC has primarily addressed biological hazards in food by developing general hygiene provisions e.g. codes of practice for different food commodities, as well as addressing chemical hazards by establishing maximum limits and codes of practice for the reduction of levels of chemical hazards.

Risk analysis offers new opportunities to OIE and CAC in the elaboration of optimal sanitary measures, either as international standards or as technical advice to national governments. In the case of food safety, improvements must be brought about in the face of ever-changing patterns of primary production, processing technology and consumer behaviour.

The application of a generic risk management framework is increasingly being recognised as a cross-sectoral means of bringing about a reduction in risks to human and animal health⁵ (see below).

2.2 Assessment and management of hazards and risks

Consideration of all food-borne hazards and their significance in terms of risks to human health is an essential food safety activity and a core component of HACCP. Most food-borne hazards of animal origin will be either intrinsic to the live animal (as a result of production or environmental factors) or introduced during handling and processing of the product.

Food safety hazards arising from animals can be grouped into several categories e.g. zoonoses resulting from clinical disease in animals, zoonoses resulting from asymptomatic infections in animals, and chemical sources.

Hazards can also be introduced into the food chain from environmental sources, and can obviously result from occupational exposure. As some food-borne risks may occur independently of the consumption of animal products e.g. contamination via irrigation of vegetables with animal-derived pathogens, these pathways also need to be considered in terms of prevention and control.

At the same time, hazards of animal health significance that can be detected in animal populations need to be identified and managed.

⁵ Risk Analysis in Biosecurity for Food and Agriculture by S. C. Hathaway. *In*: Report of an Expert Consultation on Biosecurity in Food and Agriculture. FAO, Rome 10-13 September 2002.

Management of all these hazards by Veterinary Services needs to be carried out in a way which optimises the use of available resources.

2.3 'Production-to-consumption' approach

Currently, Codex General Principles of Food Hygiene and other Codex codes of practice relevant to food of animal origin constitute one expression of a 'production-to-consumption' approach to food control. However, for the most part, they only include general references to primary production at the farm level.

The Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat (CAC/RCP 58-2005) identifies a number of generic segments in the food chain and these could be used as a partial template in the elaboration of standards for veterinary⁶ involvement in meat hygiene activities throughout the food chain. It should be noted that many aspects of meat hygiene require iterative loops between different segments in the food chain for optimal risk management. Effective functioning of good hygienic practice (GHP) and HACCP is reliant on such information exchange.

Several other OIE and Codex standards can be utilised to describe veterinary involvement in food safety throughout the food chain e.g. Principles for Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification (CAC/GL 20 - 1995), Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding (CAC/RCP 54-2004). A range of stakeholders may be involved in the implementation of food safety controls e.g. regulatory authorities, industry and the public, and measures that are decided may not necessarily be mandatory regulatory controls e.g. consumer education in safe food handling practices.

There should be an integrated approach to the design and implementation of regulatory systems covering the 'production-to-consumption' continuum. This approach should include:

- a) monitoring and surveillance at the farm level, including consideration of data from non-regulatory sources, and monitoring at other steps in the food chain, including meat inspection;
- b) monitoring and risk management of the use of veterinary drugs, including antimicrobial resistance;
- c) exchange of monitoring information with all interested parties;
- d) animal identification systems and traceability of animal products;
- e) utilisation of diagnostic tests;
- f) assessment / recognition of the competence of food safety authorities in exporting countries;
- g) certification and official assurances;
- h) emergency response capability;
- i) integrated database management, epidemiological investigations and predictive microbiology;
- j) potential effects on food safety of the transport of live animals.

⁶ The same principles that apply to *Veterinary Services* should also apply in countries where the responsibility for establishing or applying animal health measures is exercised by an organisation other than the *Veterinary Services* or by an authority or agency on behalf of the *Veterinary Services*. (See Article 1.3.3.1 of the *Terrestrial Code*.)

2.4 Risk assessment and risk management

Food-borne hazards to human health

At present, there is room for significant improvement in many aspects of food safety, especially in the areas of ante- and post-mortem inspection and microbiological process control. Measures should be tailor-made to the range and prevalence of hazards in the particular animal population, focused on the most significant risks to human health, and focused at those steps in the 'production-to-consumption' continuum where they have the highest likelihood of reducing food-borne risks.

Other aspects include:

- a) performance-based inspection for process control;
- b) establishing decision criteria for the outcome of risk reductions;
- c) risk-based surveillance of live animals and monitoring of animal products throughout the food chain;
- d) effective information exchange and risk communication between all interested parties.

Animal health hazards

In determining the role and functionality of Veterinary Services in food safety throughout the 'production-to-consumption' continuum, hazards of animal health significance that can be detected in animal populations must first be identified, the risks assessed and properly managed, so as to optimise use of the available resources of Veterinary Services.

Veterinarians involved in food safety can also make a significant contribution to achieving animal health goals through application of animal health measures, and the extent to which animal health risk management functions should be carried out by veterinarians involved in food safety should be fully assessed, in order to maximise benefits to both sectors.

2.5 Food suitability

Beyond the assessment and management of food safety risks, assuring food suitability is a component of food hygiene.

CAC describes food hygiene as all conditions and measures necessary to ensure the safety and suitability of food at all stages of the food chain, and suitability as the assurance that food is acceptable for human consumption according to its intended use. As a result, the detection and removal of abnormalities in animal products that are not of public health significance or should be integral part of food safety programmes. Other aspects of suitability relating to consumer expectations include certification requirements e.g. Codex General Guidelines for Use of the Term 'Halal' (CAC/GL 24-1997).

2.6 Functionality

Effective food safety requires a high level of interaction and risk communication with many interested parties. Veterinarians, and other health professionals, may be called on to play a major role in these processes, especially in respect of the interface between different Veterinary Services and other government agencies that may be involved in food safety.

Further, food safety regulatory reform in a number of countries is changing the traditional roles of such parties. In an increasing number of countries, industry now has the primary responsibility for implementing food safety measures, and regulatory authorities are increasingly moving towards verification and audit roles. This provides new opportunities and responsibilities for veterinarians.

2.7 Animal welfare

Although animal welfare is beyond the mandate of CAC, it is a part of the OIE's mandate and international standards on this issue are included in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

2.8 Multidisciplinary framework

“Effective food control requires multidisciplinary scientific and technical inputs. Further, utilising risk assessment in a contemporary food safety environment is a multidisciplinary responsibility”⁷.

Any standard resulting from OIE/CAC cooperation will benefit from multidisciplinary inputs to food safety.

3. Standards

OIE has identified that co-operation with CAC will enhance the scope and scientific quality of international standards, guidelines and related texts, especially in regard to food safety measures applicable at the farm level⁸.

According to its Statutes, CAC should “promote coordination of all food standards work undertaken by intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations” (Article 1[b]). Objective 3 of the CAC Strategic Framework recognises that CAC needed to interact closely with OIE.

The cooperation between the CAC and the OIE currently include:

- a) cooperation⁹ through mutual exchange of information and participation in meetings;
- b) the use of a common text in the elaboration of a standard and harmonisation of definition;
- c) cross-referencing to the other organisation's standards;
- d) the construction of complementary texts taking into account the existing standards.

4. Development of an OIE document on Veterinary Services' involvement in food safety activities

Building on its cooperation with the CAC, the OIE proposes to develop a document on the roles and functionality of Veterinary Services in food safety. This document should cover the involvement of Veterinary Services in food safety activities which encompass food safety and suitability and zoonoses. Activities in these areas will variably contribute to ‘reducing food-borne risks to human health by preventing, eliminating or controlling hazards arising from animals prior to primary processing of animals and animal products’¹⁰. Further, the document should cover veterinary competence in other aspects of food safety risk management e.g. public health policy, integrated design of surveillance systems for chemical hazards, certification and risk communication.

In addition, functionality aspects of Veterinary Services must be considered in respect of animal health activities that have no bearing on food safety or suitability.

4.1 Format

The suggested format for elaboration of the OIE document is:

- a) Overarching principles for the involvement of Veterinary Services and other veterinary activities in food safety

⁷ Future Trends in Veterinary Public Health. Report of a WHO Study Group. WHO, Geneva 2002.

⁸ Resolution No. XV. 70th General Session of the OIE, 2003.

⁹ FAO, WHO and OIE also cooperate in providing expert advice on the basis of which international standards are developed both in the CAC and in the OIE.

¹⁰ Report of the Meeting of the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety. Paris, 18-20 November 2002.

- b) A ‘code of practice’ format that progresses through a ‘production-to-consumption’ approach to food safety
- c) Subsections that develop principles and guidelines according to the particular segment of the food chain
- d) Specific linkages to other OIE and Codex texts describing detailed aspects of possible veterinary inputs e.g. on antimicrobial resistance, animal feeding.

4.2 Criteria

Suggested criteria for elaboration of the OIE document are:

- a) Consideration of food-borne risks to human health as a result of hazards arising from animals prior to primary processing of animals and animal products
- b) Inclusion of animal health and welfare functions (including epidemiological surveillance) that may be carried out by veterinarians whose primary focus is food safety
- c) Representation of a ‘production-to-consumption’ approach to food safety
- d) Reflection on effective use of Veterinary Services and other competent authorities
- e) Utilisation of risk assessment wherever possible and practical
- f) Inclusion of HACCP where appropriate
- g) Inclusion of food suitability¹¹ as well as food safety
- h) Identification of the contributions of public and private sector veterinarians, and para-professionals.

Many of the above criteria are ‘horizontal’ in nature will need to be applied at each segment of the ‘production-to-consumption’ continuum, with a description of iterative loops to veterinary inputs at other segments.

4.3 *Ad hoc* Groups

The Working Group is proposing that several *ad hoc* Groups be formed to draft different modules for the OIE document. Each *ad hoc* Group should apply a generic framework for managing food-borne risks to consumers and describe veterinary inputs.

Each *ad hoc* Group should consider modular and ‘horizontal’ aspects of:

- a) regulatory frameworks and responsibilities;
- b) veterinary activities relating to food safety and suitability, zoonoses and animal health, and welfare;
- c) the relative contributions of public and private sector veterinarians, and para-professionals, and other stakeholders;

¹¹ Food suitability is described by CAC ‘as assurance that food is acceptable for human consumption according to its intended use’.

- d) the functionality of sharing veterinary competence to meet public health and animal health goals.

The Working Group proposes that *ad hoc* Groups be set up to address specific issues:

Scope, terms of reference and membership for the *ad hoc* Groups will be developed by the Working Group as appropriate.

Annex

Generic framework for managing public and animal health risks

To the greatest extent possible and practicable, design and implementation of sanitary measures should be based on application of four components of a generic framework:

Preliminary activities by the risk manager

Following identification of a public health or animal health issue by the risk manager, this initial process may include establishment of a risk profile to place the issue within a particular context, and provide as much information as possible to guide further action. The risk manager may commission a detailed risk assessment as an independent scientific process to inform decision-making, and if so, risk assessment policy should be established¹². Once a risk assessment has been received, the last step in preliminary risk management activities is to consider the results for completeness and appropriateness.

Evaluation of risk management options

This is the process whereby potential risk management options are identified, and then selected according to appropriate decision-making criteria. It will usually involve balancing expectations in light of scientific information on risks and available measures. “Optimisation” of selected measures in terms of their efficiency, technological feasibility and practicality is an important goal.

Implementation of measures

Implementation of public or animal health measures will usually involve regulatory requirements, with a particular focus on HACCP. Flexibility in choice of individual measures applied by industry is a desirable element, as long as the overall programme can be objectively shown to achieve stated goals. On-going verification of sanitary measures by the competent authority is an essential action.

Monitoring and review of appropriateness of options chosen

This is the gathering and analysing of public and animal health data. Monitoring (which includes surveillance) should identify new problems as they emerge. Where there is evidence that required public and animal goals are not being achieved, redesign of measures will be needed.

¹² Risk assessment policy refers to the documented guidelines (provided by the risk manager) for policy choices and scientific value judgements that may be necessary at specific points in the risk assessment.

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Appendix III**Summary Report of the Fifth Meeting of the OIE Working Group on
Animal Production Food Safety****Introduction**

The OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety (hereinafter referred to as the Working Group) was established in 2002 following a request from OIE's International Committee to strengthen OIE's activities in the food safety area and further develop collaboration with the CAC. The Working Group's role is to coordinate OIE activities related to animal production food safety and to advise the Director-General and the relevant specialist Commissions on issues in this area. The Working Group met for the fifth time at the OIE Headquarters on 30 January - 1 February 2006. The following is a summary of the main discussions and results from the meeting; the full report can be found on the OIE web page and as Appendix XXXVIII to the Report of the meeting of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission, Paris, 6-10 March 2006.

The Working Group reviewed the work going on in the OIE and the CAC on matters of common interest for both standard setting organisations and welcomed the achievements but recognised the need to further improve coordination between the two organisations.

The Working Group addressed the following main topics:

Biotechnology

The Working Group addressed the Resolution XXVIII adopted in 2005 by the International Committee on "Applications of Genetic Engineering for Livestock and Biotechnology Products" and the terms of reference of the *ad hoc* group on biotechnology that were drawn up by the Biological Standards Commission according to that resolution. The *ad hoc* group would be working on two main topics in relation to biotechnology: on the one hand vaccines and diagnostic tests and on the other on cloning of animals. The Working Group discussed the terms of reference in light of the ongoing work in the CAC on the use of modern biotechnology and made several recommendations to the OIE and to the Biological Standards Commission on the ongoing work.

Strengthening public health and animal health through responsible use of reliable, safe and effective veterinary drugs

The work of the OIE on Veterinary Critically Important Antimicrobials (VCIA) and the OIE's collaboration with WHO, FAO, CAC and the VICH (the International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products) were presented to the Working Group. The Working Group encouraged the CAC to decide as soon as possible on how it intended to cooperate with the OIE in its future work on antimicrobial resistance. The Working Group was informed that the WHO had already established a list of critically important antimicrobials for human use, as well as criteria for their selection. The Working Group encouraged the OIE to finalise its work on a list of VCIA as soon as possible. Once that list is available, OIE should discuss with WHO the recommendations both organisations should make on the use of critically important antimicrobials for both human and veterinary use.

Control of hazards of public health and animal health importance through *ante-* and *post-mortem* meat inspection

In accordance with the discussion in the fourth meeting, the Secretariat had finalised the document "Control of Hazards of Public Health and Animal Health Importance through Ante- and Post-Mortem Meat Inspection" and had placed it on the OIE Website as an information document. The Working Group

addressed Member Countries' comments on the proposed Appendix on this subject for inclusion in the Terrestrial Code. This document had previously been refined by the Secretariat and subsequently the Terrestrial Code Commission had reviewed and amended the document and sent it for comments to OIE Member Countries.

The Working Group recommended that the Terrestrial Code Commission review the use of the terms “*veterinary services*”, “*veterinary administration*”, “*veterinary authority*” and “*competent authority*” in the Terrestrial Code for consistency; this should be done in line with the IV Strategic Plan's direction for strengthening cooperation with other competent authorities. In addition, the Working Group made some recommendations to the Terrestrial Code Commission. In March these recommendations were addressed by the Terrestrial Code Commission when finalising the draft chapter for the Terrestrial Code.

Role and functionality of veterinary services

The document “Role and functionality of veterinary services” was redrafted. The Working Group decided to change the title of the document to “Cooperation between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the OIE on food safety throughout the food chain” as this was a better description of the content of the document. The Working Group discussed and revised this document and recommended that it not be included in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, but published on the OIE Website and in the OIE Bulletin, as well as presented to the CAC for information. A document on the “Role and functionality of veterinary services” was now seen as a separate output of this cooperation.

Guide to good farming practices (GGFP)

The Guide to Good Farming Practices (GGFP) had been revised, in accordance with the recommendations of the previous Working Group meeting. This revised version had been submitted to the September 2005 meeting of the Terrestrial Code Commission, which noted the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on good agricultural practice and recommended that, with regard to the Working Group document, the OIE and the FAO coordinate their work with the aim of the information being published by both organisations for the guidance of Member Countries and the public. The Working Group supported these views and considered that a contribution from the WHO and the Codex Alimentarius Secretariat should be sought to ensure that the public health aspects were appropriately taken into account. These guidelines would underpin additional on-farm measures introduced to reduce specific animal or public health hazards of concern in Member Countries.

Animal identification and traceability

The Working Group reviewed the work done by the OIE *ad hoc* group on animal identification and traceability and addressed Member Countries' comments received. It acknowledged that traceability is important for public health, animal health and other managerial reasons. The Working Group agreed that the OIE, in conjunction with the FAO, should prepare a document to assist the practical implementation of future OIE standards on animal identification and traceability. The Working Group congratulated the *ad hoc* group for its constructive work and requested it to produce a revised version of Chapter 1.3.7. that takes into account the comments received from Member Countries and the Working Group's views and written comments. The *ad hoc* group met in February and accordingly revised the set of principles and the related definitions. The *ad hoc* group addressed the parallel work going on in Codex and welcomed the lack of gaps and contradictions between the OIE and Codex texts. The Terrestrial Code Commission endorsed and finalised the draft chapter on animal identification and traceability.

Bovine brucellosis

The Working Group had the following comments on the draft revised chapter on bovine brucellosis: the term “Competent authority” is more suitable than “veterinary administration” in the articles 2.3.1.10. and 2.3.1.11 and in these same two articles, the name of the Codex Alimentarius standard for meat should be corrected to “Code of hygienic practice for meat”. A comment on Article 2.3.3.11., point 2 was passed on

to the Terrestrial Code Commission for consideration. The Working Group noted how these revisions were similar to the changes applied the previous year to the bovine tuberculosis chapter and was comfortable with the general approach. The Working Group expressed its satisfaction that the animal production food safety aspects were addressed in these chapters.

Animal feeding

The Working Group was updated on the recent CAC work and ongoing discussions on animal feeding. The OIE involvement in this area was also discussed in the light of the respective mandates of the CAC and the OIE. The Working Group recognised the need for the OIE to set guidelines to address animal feed in order to complement the existing Codex Alimentarius and OIE international standards. The Working Group recommended that the OIE set up an *ad hoc* group on animal feeding and recommended terms of reference for such a group. It recommended that the membership of the *ad hoc* group would be such as to ensure complementarity with the CAC work on the topic.

The role of veterinary services in the reduction of chemical hazards of public and animal health significance at the farm level

The Working Group addressed the issue of the role of veterinary services in the reduction of chemical hazards of public and animal health significance at the farm level. It noted the interest of OIE Member Countries in this topic and also that the OIE IV Strategic Plan requested the OIE to address this issue. After discussing the appropriate format for recommendations on this issue, the Working Group decided that this should be addressed in the framework of the GGFP. The Working Group also considered that this work should be done with cross referencing to existing Codex Alimentarius standards (notably on veterinary drugs).

Revision of OIE model certificates

Addressing the Working Group's recommendation, the OIE had started by comparing the OIE and Codex certification systems and submitting its views to the latest Codex Committee on Food Import & Export Inspection & Certification Systems meeting. The OIE has also been involved in the work in the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products, on the Codex Model Export Certificate for Milk and Milk Products.

The Working Group considered that the ongoing work in the CAC and the OIE was creating good opportunities for cooperation between the two organisations and recommended that it should be continued in order to obtain standards that would allow Member Countries to draw up single certificates that cover the entire food production chain.

The Working Group addressed the issue of electronic certification and considered the need for the OIE to address it in view of its future developments. For this purpose it believed that a standardised approach should be used in referring to the technical requirements of an electronic certification system. The Working Group noted that some CAC and other international requirements already referred to the UN-CEFACT body that globally promotes harmonisation of electronic certification systems for official and commercial purposes.

The Working Group recommended that the OIE continue to coordinate its work with the CAC (and especially CCFICS) and maximise cooperation with other interested parties, outlining its proposal for combined certificates addressing the entire food chain, when this was possible. The Working Group requested the Director General to set up an *ad hoc* group that would revise the current OIE work and update certification guidelines and model certificates.

Salmonellosis

The Working Group addressed a discussion paper on salmonellosis, taking into account Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) and WHO work on risk reduction for salmonellosis, initially *Salmonella enteritidis* in eggs and focusing on the draft Code of hygienic practice for eggs and egg products prepared by the CCFH. The Working Group considered the draft Code as an important tool for Member Countries to ensure safe and suitable eggs and egg products. While the Codex draft Code encompasses the whole food chain, the Working Group considered that the provisions contained in the draft Code on flock management and animal health could be expanded from the viewpoint of the OIE recommendations for controlling and eradicating animal diseases, including zoonoses.

The Working Group recommended that the Director General of the OIE appoint an *ad hoc* group to develop draft standards on salmonellosis in poultry to complement the ongoing work of the CAC. The standards should address methods for the detection of *Salmonella spp.* in flocks, measures for control and eradication, as well as risk mitigation measures for affected commodities.

Alternatives to formal notification for certain diseases of international significance

The Working Group was informed that this item was being addressed by several bodies within the OIE. The Working Group acknowledged that official notification was an important tool for controlling the international spread of diseases, but considered that other risk assessment and risk management instruments exist and encouraged the OIE to continue exploring them.

Work programme

The Working Group revised its work programme, which for 2006/2007 includes a) horizontal issues (animal identification and traceability, certification, antimicrobial resistance, alternative approaches to risk management of zoonoses, good farming practices -reduction of chemical hazards- ,guidelines for animal feeding), b) disease-specific texts (brucellosis, salmonellosis), c) strengthening relationship between OIE and Codex, and d) development of new texts (role and functionality of veterinary services in food safety).

Modus operandi

The Working Group considered the results accomplished in this its fifth meeting to be very positive and supported this *modus operandi* being applied for future meetings. The Working Group recognised the International Committee's concerns on the need for transparency in the working procedures of the OIE (as stated in the IV Strategic Plan). On this basis, the Working Group made some minor amendments to the *modus operandi* adopted at the previous meeting. The Working Group recommended the elaboration of a paper clarifying its role and working procedures that and such a paper be made available to interested parties.

Discussion on hazards and risks

There was a brief discussion on a draft paper tabled by Dr McKenzie, Executive Director of the New Zealand Food Safety Authority, relating to hazards and risks and their use in international standards. Elements of the paper were discussed at the Codex Committee on General Principles in April 2006. It was agreed that a further paper would be developed for consideration at the next meeting of the Working Group.

Appendix IV**OIE Terrestrial Code Appendix on Identification and Traceability of Live Animals**

APPENDIX 3.5.1.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Definitions to be located in Chapter 1.1.1.

Animal identification means the combination of the identification and *registration* of an animal individually, with a unique identifier, or collectively by its *epidemiological unit* or group, with a unique group identifier.

Animal identification system means the inclusion and linking of components such as identification of *establishments/owners*, the person(s) responsible for the animal(s), movements and other records with *animal identification*.

Animal traceability means the ability to follow an animal or group of animals during all stages of their lives.

Registration is the action by which information on animals (such as identification, animal health, movement, certification, epidemiology, *establishments*) is collected, recorded, securely stored and made appropriately accessible and able to be utilised by the *Competent Authority*.

Article 3.5.1.1.

1. There is a critical relationship between *animal identification* and the traceability of animals and products of animal origin.
2. *Animal traceability* and traceability of products of animal origin should have the capability to be linked to achieve traceability throughout the food chain taking into account relevant OIE and Codex Alimentarius standards.
3. *Animal identification* and *animal traceability* are tools for addressing animal health (including zoonoses), and food safety. These may significantly improve the effectiveness of: management of disease outbreaks and food safety incidents, vaccination programmes, herd/flock husbandry, zoning/compartmentalisation, surveillance, early response and notification systems, animal movement controls, inspection, certification, fair practices in trade and the utilisation of veterinary drugs, feed and pesticides at farm level.
4. The objective(s) and outcomes of *animal identification* and *animal traceability* for a particular country, *zone* or *compartment*, and the approach used, should be clearly defined, following an assessment of the risks to be addressed, and a consideration of the factors listed below. They should be defined through consultation between the *Veterinary Administration* and relevant sectors/stakeholders prior to implementation, and periodically reviewed.
5. There are various factors which may determine the chosen system for *animal identification* and *animal traceability*. Factors such as the outcomes of the risk assessment, the animal and public health situation (including zoonoses), animal population parameters (such as species and breeds, numbers and distribution), types of production, animal movement patterns, available technologies, trade in animals and animal products, cost/benefit analysis and other economic considerations, and cultural aspects, should be taken into account when designing the system. Whatever system is used, it should comply with relevant OIE standards to ensure that the defined objectives are able to be achieved.

6. *Animal identification and animal traceability* should be under the responsibility of the *Veterinary Administration*.
7. The *Veterinary Administration* with relevant governmental agencies and in consultation with the private sector, should establish a legal framework for the implementation and enforcement of *animal identification* and *animal traceability* in the country. In order to facilitate compatibility and consistency, relevant international standards and obligations should be taken into account. This legal framework should include elements such as the objectives, scope, organisational arrangements including the choice of technologies used for identification and registration, obligation of the parties, confidentiality, accessibility issues and the efficient exchange of information.
8. Whatever the specific objectives of the chosen *animal identification system* and *animal traceability*, there is a series of common basic factors, and these must be considered before implementation, such as the legal framework, procedures, the *Competent Authority*, identification of *establishments/owners*, *animal identification* and animal movements.
9. The equivalent outcomes (performance criteria), rather than identical systems (design criteria), should be the basis for comparison of *animal identification systems* and *animal traceability*.

Appendix V**OIE Terrestrial Code Appendix on the Control of Biological Hazards of
Animal Health and Public Health Importance
Through Ante- and Post-mortem Meat Inspection**

APPENDIX 3.10.1.

GUIDELINES FOR THE CONTROL OF
BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS OF
ANIMAL HEALTH AND PUBLIC HEALTH IMPORTANCE
THROUGH ANTE- AND POST-MORTEM
MEAT INSPECTION

Article 3.10.1.1.

Introduction

Foodborne disease and zoonoses are important public health problems and causes of decreased economic productivity in developed and developing countries. Similarly, transmission of hazards of animal health importance via the meat production chain and associated by-products can result in significant economic loss in livestock. Inspection of animals at slaughter can provide a valuable contribution to surveillance for certain diseases of animal and public health importance. Control and/or reduction of biological hazards of animal and public health importance by ante- and post-mortem meat inspection are a core responsibility of *Veterinary Services*.

Article 3.10.1.2.

Purpose

These guidelines provide a basis for future development of OIE standards for animal production food safety.

Article 3.10.1.3.

Hygienic practice throughout the meat production chain

The Codex Alimentarius Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat¹³ (CHPM) constitutes the primary international standard for meat hygiene and incorporates a risk-based approach to application of sanitary measures throughout the meat production chain. Ante-mortem inspection is described as a primary component of meat hygiene before slaughter, and post-mortem inspection is described as a primary component of process control in post-slaughter meat hygiene. The CHPM specifically recognises the dual objectives that slaughterhouse inspection activities deliver in terms of animal and public health.

¹³ Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat, CAC/RCP 58-2005

The CHPM does not provide inspection measures for specific hazards, which remain the responsibility of national competent authorities. The animal and public health risks associated with livestock populations vary across regions and animal husbandry systems, and ante- and post-mortem inspection needs to be tailored to the individual country situation and its animal and public health objectives.

The CHPM provides a platform for development of meat hygiene systems that are based on risk assessment. There are few risk assessment models and little relevant scientific information available on public health hazards derived specifically from animals and their products, making difficult the development of risk-based standards for food-borne diseases and zoonoses. While this scientific information is being accumulated, ante- and post-mortem inspection systems will remain dependent on traditional approaches.

Article 3.10.1.4.

Veterinary Services and meat inspection programmes

Veterinary Services are primarily responsible for the development of ante- and post-mortem meat inspection programmes. Wherever practicable, inspection procedures should be risk-based and management systems should reflect international norms and cover the significant hazards to both human and animal health in the livestock being slaughtered, as determined by the *Veterinary Services*. In respect of ante- and post-mortem inspection as a component of meat hygiene, responsibilities of *Veterinary Services* include:

- a) risk assessment and risk management;
- b) establishment of policies and standards;
- c) design and management of inspection programmes;
- d) assurance and certification of appropriate delivery of inspection and compliance activities;
- e) dissemination of information throughout the meat production chain.

Article 3.10.1.5.

Risk assessment and risk management

Veterinary Services should utilise risk assessment to the greatest extent practicable in the development of sanitary measures. *Veterinary Services* should give priority to addressing microbiological contamination, while not neglecting gross abnormalities detected at ante and post-mortem inspection, as this has been found to be the most important source of hazards.

Microbiological, serological or other testing at single-animal and herd level as part of ante- and post-mortem inspection should be used to support surveillance, as well as risk assessment of prioritised foodborne hazards. The information gathered should be linked to human disease data to allow an assessment of the effectiveness of various management options, as well as a general evaluation of food sources of foodborne disease.

Application of a generic framework should provide a systematic and consistent process for managing all biosecurity risks, while accommodating the different risk assessment methodologies used in animal and public health.

Article 3.10.1.6.

Establishment of policies and standards

The national competent authority(s) should provide an appropriate institutional environment to allow *Veterinary Services* to develop the necessary policies and standards.

As well as meeting public health objectives, policies and standards relating to ante- and post-mortem inspection should aim to detect and remove hazards of animal health significance from the meat production chain. This may be achieved by the removal of live animals at ante-mortem inspection or by the removal of specific tissues at post-mortem inspection.

Veterinary Services should integrate their activities to the maximum extent practicable so as to prevent duplication of effort and unnecessary costs e.g. within the process of international certification.

Article 3.10.1.7.

Design and management of inspection programmes

In meeting animal and public health objectives prescribed in national legislation or required by *importing countries*, *Veterinary Services* contribute through the direct performance of some veterinary tasks or through the auditing of animal and public health activities conducted by other agencies or the private sector. To this end, *Veterinary Services* provide assurances domestically and to trading partners that safety and suitability standards have been met.

Veterinary Services should allow flexibility in meat inspection service delivery through an officially recognised competent body operating under its supervision and control. In recognition of the contribution of industry to food safety, quality assurance systems may be extended in the case of ante- and post-mortem inspection to systems that integrate industry and *Veterinary Services* activities. Nevertheless, *Veterinary Services* should take into account the factors identified in Chapter 1.3.3 on the Evaluation of *Veterinary Services*. For example, if personnel from the private sector are used to carry out ante- and post-mortem inspection activities under the overall supervision and responsibility of the *Veterinary Services*, the *Veterinary Services* should specify the competency requirements for all such persons and verify their performance.

Article 3.10.1.8.

Assurance and certification

Assurance and certification of appropriate delivery of inspection and compliance activities is a vital function of *Veterinary Services*. International health certificates providing official assurances for trading of meat must engender full confidence to the country of importation.

Article 3.10.1.9.

Dissemination of information

Organisation and dissemination of information throughout the meat production chain involves multidisciplinary inputs. To ensure the effective implementation of ante- and post-mortem inspection procedures, *Veterinary Services* should have in place systems for the monitoring of these procedures and the exchange of information gained. Further, there should be an ongoing programme for monitoring of hazards at appropriate points throughout the meat production chain so as to help evaluate the efficacy of controls. Animal identification and traceability systems should be integrated in order to be able to trace slaughtered animals back to their place of origin, and products derived from them forward through the meat production chain.

Appendix VI**OIE Work on Certification and Cooperation with the CAC**

To better address its Member Countries' needs, the OIE is updating its standards on certification. Considering the relevant work already done by the CAC, cooperation with CAC is necessary to obtain, when possible, combined certificates in order to promote harmonisation and avoid contradictory standards for both Codex and OIE Member Countries.

The OIE *Terrestrial Code* includes several appendices on certificates for international trade and the procedures related to certification. Those model certificates address trade in animals and their products among OIE Member Countries.

The OIE is concerned by the increasing administrative burden that trading partners have to undertake; this is especially relevant for developing countries. Therefore, an effort has to be made to reduce redundant or duplicative certificates. The OIE intends to start the revision of its model certificates, through the setting up of a specific expert group.

Cooperation with CCFICS and CCMMP

As suggested by its Animal Production Food Safety Working Group, the OIE intends to provide its input to the ongoing work of CCFICS, including participation in the working group established by CCFICS on the revision of the Codex Guidelines for Generic Certificate Formats and the Production and Issuance of Certificates, outlining its proposal for a combined certificate.

The OIE agrees with the CCFICS recommendation to the CAC on the need for harmonized attestations for similar certification needs, to minimise misunderstandings and errors, and to develop specific attestation examples for common types of certification.

The OIE participated to the 7th Session of the CCMMP and contributed to the development of the "Proposed Draft Model Export Certificate for Milk and Milk Products". The intent was to provide the basis for allowing OIE and CAC Member Countries to draw up a single certificate per commodity (in this case milk and milk products) that addresses both the animal health and public health aspects relevant to international trade.

Therefore, the OIE proposed the inclusion of an animal health attestation in the proposed draft model certificate. The CCMMP acknowledged the need to link animal and public health when they are related to food safety and consequently amended the introductory part of the "Proposed Draft Model Export Certificate for Milk and Milk Products"; but in the same time the Committee did not take on board the OIE proposal for placing an animal health attestation in the model certificate itself. This amended document now explicitly mentions the possibility of having a single certificate addressing, if applicable, both animal and public health attestations.

The OIE is satisfied with the "Proposed Draft Model Export Certificate for Milk and Milk Products" produced by the CCMMP and encourages the CAC to adopt this text at step 5 of the Codex Alimentarius procedure.

To best harmonise work with the CAC on certification, OIE believes that it would be desirable for both Organisations to revise their standards in close collaboration. The final goal will be to give Member Countries the means to set up a single certificate per product (addressing both public health and animal health) and to simplify the exporting/importing procedures.

Appendix VII

OIE Work on Antimicrobial Resistance and Cooperation with the CAC

Existing OIE standards on antimicrobial resistance

Antimicrobial resistance is a priority topic for the OIE in its standardisation work, taking in account the demand from Member Countries and the impact on animal and human health.

The OIE started in 1998 to address the matter through an expert meeting (an *ad hoc* Group) and an international conference in Paris in October 2001. Four guidelines were adopted by the OIE International Committee in May 2003. Three of them were incorporated into the *Terrestrial Code* as appendices, and another into the *OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* (in brief, the *Terrestrial Manual*).

Guidelines on Risk Analysis for Antimicrobial Resistance, a companion appendix for the three guidelines adopted in 2003, were unanimously adopted in May 2004.

During 2004, the OIE has convened twice an expert meeting (an *ad hoc* group) on Antimicrobial Resistance. Two of the invited experts were officials from FAO and WHO. The *ad hoc* Group updated the OIE standards on antimicrobial resistance (Appendices 3.9.4. and 3.9.3.) taking into account the latest scientific knowledge and the work done during the October 2004 CCRVDF meeting in Washington. The updates proposed by the *ad hoc* group were endorsed by the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety first and subsequently by the OIE International Committee in May 2005. The *ad hoc* group also established a list of critically important antimicrobials for veterinary use which has just been adopted by the OIE International Committee.

The current *Terrestrial Code* Appendices are:

- Appendix 3.9.1.: Guidelines for the harmonisation of antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes.
- Appendix 3.9.2.: Guidelines for the monitoring of the quantities of antimicrobials used in animal husbandry.
- Appendix 3.9.3.: Guidelines for the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine.
- Appendix 3.9.4.: Risk assessment for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobials in animals.

The current Chapter in the *Terrestrial Manual* is:

- Chapter I.1.10: Laboratory methodologies for bacterial antimicrobial susceptibility testing.

The FAO, the OIE and the WHO have actively cooperated in this area through joint activities in addition to participation in the activities of the International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Products (VICH).

Perspectives and new goals

Consistent with its rules, the OIE is willing to collaborate with all organisations concerned, such as WHO and FAO, and governments of OIE Member Countries.

It is obvious that the OIE's goals can only be achieved in cooperation with WHO and FAO, which are currently also working on the issue of antimicrobial resistance.

This close cooperation, which is actively being developed, will help to obtain the benefits of synergies amongst the different organisations.

Following a suggestion of the WHO and CAC, a world-wide consultation of experts has been launched in Geneva, Switzerland (2003); Oslo, Norway (2004) and Korea, Seoul (2006) by WHO, FAO and OIE with the view to gather all available scientific data and to prepare a common action plan for the future.

The 1st Workshop on Non-Human Antimicrobial Usage, held in December 2003 in Geneva, included a preliminary scientific assessment of all non-human uses of antimicrobials in animals and plants, and their role in antimicrobial resistance, based on the available scientific information. Based on the outcome of the 1st workshop in Geneva, as well as other relevant input (e.g. reports of previous WHO and OIE workshops), a 2nd workshop, held in Oslo in February 2004, considered the broad range of possible risk management options for antimicrobial resistance from non-human use of antimicrobials. In particular, it focused on potential directions of future Codex, FAO, WHO and OIE work in this area, in order to prevent and minimise antimicrobial resistance at the global level. To ensure that the conclusions of the 2nd Workshop reflected the perspectives of interested parties, the major stakeholder groups (e.g. members of the pharmaceutical industry, farmers, food processors, consumers, regulatory agencies, and veterinarians) participated in the meeting.

The aim of these two workshops was to identify risk management options as far as antimicrobial resistance is concerned, for the benefit of individuals from Member Countries who are in charge of the decision-making process in this field.

Following these two Expert Workshops on Non-Human Antimicrobial Usage organised by FAO, OIE and WHO, it was recommended that the concept of 'critically important' classes of antimicrobials for human and animal usage be developed by WHO and OIE, respectively. The list of Critically Important Antibacterial Agents for Human Medicine was proposed in February 2005 at a WHO working group consultation meeting in Canberra, Australia. In January 2005, the OIE *ad hoc* group proposed to define and designate Veterinary Critically Important Antimicrobials (VCIA). This concept was endorsed by the OIE Biological Standards Commission and adopted by the OIE International Committee in May 2005. The OIE referred the task of establishing a list of VCIA to the OIE *ad hoc* group on Antimicrobial Resistance. This *ad hoc* group prepared a questionnaire to collect proposals on VCIA as well as comments regarding the definition and aim of the list. The questionnaire was sent to the 167 OIE Member Countries and to International Organisations with a co-operation agreement with the OIE in order to establish a list of VCIA. All proposals to include antimicrobials needed to be scientifically justified. The results were reviewed in January 2006. A general agreement was expressed by respondents on the criteria proposed by OIE and the list of proposed VCIA was compiled. The report and the executive summary were endorsed by the OIE Biological Standards Commission and consequently endorsed by the OIE International Committee during the General Session in May 2006.

At the moment of writing, a joint FAO/WHO/OIE Expert Consultation on antimicrobial use in aquaculture and antimicrobial resistance is scheduled for June 2006 in Korea (Seoul). All pertinent and scientific information collected over the past years on antimicrobial use in aquaculture and its consequences for public health will be analysed, using the complementary expertise of FAO, WHO and OIE. The overall objective of this meeting is to develop strategies and recommendations to minimize the risk related to antimicrobial use in aquaculture and its consequences for human public health and animal health, based on scientific assessment.

Moreover, following the recommendations of the conference held in Oslo endorsed by WHO, FAO, OIE and all participants, the OIE still considers that the proposal to create a joint Codex/OIE task force on the issue of antimicrobial resistance is relevant.

Appendix VIII**RESOLUTION No. XXII****Animal Production Food Safety**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The permanent Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, established by the Director-General in 2002, met for the fifth time in 2006, and drafted a work programme for 2006/2007,
2. The Working Group has developed various texts aimed at minimizing food safety risks associated with hazards in animal production, including a 'Guide on Good Farming Practices',
3. The Working Group has produced a guidance paper on the 'Cooperation between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the OIE on food safety throughout the food chain',
4. The Working Group has developed a draft chapter for the Terrestrial Animal Health Code on "Guidelines for the control of hazards of animal health and public health importance through *ante-* and *post-mortem* meat inspection",
5. The Working Group has reviewed the work of the *ad hoc* group on identification and traceability of live animals which produced a draft chapter for the Terrestrial Animal Health Code on "Animal identification and traceability"
6. The OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission have continued to work together to ensure food safety standards being developed by either party take a whole of food chain approach to addressing food safety, and ensure as much consistency as possible with each others' work,
7. The work on animal production food safety also benefits from cooperation with FAO and WHO that provide additional expert advice and expertise in food safety, zoonoses and related issues,
8. The Working Group, when examining proposals for revision of model certificates, has identified the need for specialised technical advice in this area.

THE COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Director General continue to rely on the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety to advise him as well as the relevant OIE Specialist Commissions on OIE activities in the area of animal production food safety,
2. The participation of FAO and WHO experts as members of this Working Group be continued to further strengthen the collaboration between OIE and Codex,
3. The Working Group's 2006/2007 work programme be a guide for the OIE's activities on animal production food safety for the next year, and the Working Group be provided with the necessary resources to address the priorities listed.
4. The Working Group give special attention to its work on animal identification and traceability, and to drafting texts dealing with food borne zoonoses and animal feeding, complementing relevant Codex Alimentarius texts, for consideration by the Terrestrial Animal Health Code Commission,

5. An *ad hoc* group be established to revise the current OIE model certificates, bearing in mind the need for a common approach with the other international standards and requirements, and the use of electronic certification. The development of the certificates addressing animal health and food safety be established to minimise the administrative load before product export,
 6. The OIE develop a new document on the role and functionality of veterinary services in food safety, in order to describe the involvement of veterinary services in food safety activities which encompass both public and animal health objectives.
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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2006)