

88 SG/11B

Reports
**of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions
held during the 88th General Session**
Paris, 24 May 2021

Contents

		Page
88 SG/11B/AF	Report of the Meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa.....	1
88 SG/11B/AM	Report of the Meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas	9
88 SG/11B/AS	Report of the Meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania	17
88 SG/11B/EU	Report of the Meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe	23
88 SG/11B/ME	Report of the Meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East.....	31

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Paris, 24 May 2021

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met by videoconference on 24 May 2021 at 1:00 p.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by up to 101 participants, including Delegates and observers from 42 Members of the Commission, and representatives from 9 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Central African Rep.,-Congo (Rep. of the ~), Congo (Dem. Rep. of the ~), Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

International/regional organisations: AU-IBAR¹, CVA², ECOWAS³, ICFAW⁴, ICIPE⁵, ICRC⁶, IEC⁷, UNODA⁸, WAEMU⁹.

Observers: Chairpersons and members of the OIE Biological Standards Commission and the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

The meeting was chaired by Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa and OIE Delegate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo accompanied by Dr Karim Tounkara, OIE Regional Representative for Africa.

¹ AU-IBAR: African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

² CVA: Commonwealth Veterinary Association

³ ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States

⁴ ICFAW: International Coalition for Animal Welfare

⁵ ICIPE: International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology

⁶ ICRC: International Committee of the Red Cross

⁷ IEC: International Egg Commission

⁸ UNODA: United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

⁹ WAEMU: West African Economic and Monetary Union

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted. A short video then paid tribute to OIE Delegates, experts and staff who passed away since the last Regional Commission Conference in February 2019.

2. Outcomes of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held by videoconference from 9 to 11 February 2021

Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela briefly presented the outcomes of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held from 9 to 11 February 2021 (by Zoom) and to which a total of 175 participants attended, including OIE Delegates and/or representatives from 52 Members of the region and representatives from regional and international organisations, as well as representatives of regional key partners and donors.

Dr N'lemba Mabela quickly commented the agenda of the Conference highlighting some of the topics presented. All detailed information is available in the report of the Conference in the Regional website.

3. Confirmation of the venue of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2023

Dr Letlhogile Modisa, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of Botswana, reiterated his country's offer to host the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in February 2023. Exact dates and venue will be defined at a later stage in coordination with the OIE Director General.

4. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item (with questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa:

“Eradication of PPR: results and perspectives”

This selection was made following a short Zoom poll, out of a shortlist of 6 topics, submitted earlier by Tchad, Burkina Faso, Niger and Gabon.

5. Proposal of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the OIE through various means (*Scientific and Technical Review, Bulletin, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting*)

The Regional Commission proposed the following three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the OIE through various means. This selection was made following a short Zoom poll, out of a shortlist of 6 pre-selected topics, also voted by OIE Members in April:

- Antimicrobial resistance, antimicrobial use
- Financing of veterinary services, public – private partnerships
- One Health and zoonotic diseases, zoonotic spill-overs from wildlife (reservoirs)

6. PVS Pathway External Evaluation and the next steps

Dr Barbara Alessandrini, Head of the Capacity-Building Department, briefly commented on the PVS external evaluation carried out in 2020 to assess the relevance of the programme to Members, its effectiveness, impact, and opportunities for improvement. She underlined that, the evaluation showed that PVS was a story of success, but also of frustration as Members were set for improvement through the PVS, but it was difficult to contextualise it, while the wealth of PVS data was not adequately used.

She also commented on the recommendations of the evaluation which provided inputs on increasing uptake, respect of the core principles, connection to other OIE functions, enhancing impact, and programme evolution.

Dr Alessandrini concluded by informing that the OIE response consisted in a mid-term strategy crossing through all the pathway steps, investing on new technologies and digitalization, aiming at increasing and facilitating access and participation in the programme activities, data use and sharing, needs and impact assessment, and at generating new synergies with the other OIE and partners' programmes.

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

7. Elections for Specialist Commissions

Dr Matthew Stone, Deputy Director General "International Standards and Science", provided a brief update on the OIE's work to support OIE Specialist Commissions performance through a high-quality Common Secretariat driving standardised processes, as well as the implementation of a Performance Management Framework focused on continuous improvement and partnership, along with the evaluation of performance of all members of each Commission approaching the end of their term. He highlighted the open call and evaluation of candidates for election to the Specialist Commissions, being only the second time that OIE had made such a call, and briefed the Regional Commissions on how the voting for the elections would be performed on Friday 28 May.

8. Elections of the OIE governance bodies

Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, Deputy Director General "Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities", briefly presented the main aspects of the election process for the OIE governance bodies. He reminded the OIE cycle of elections, pointing out that the 88th General Session provided an opportunity to elect members of the Council and the Bureaux of the Regional Commissions as well as the Specialist Commissions (as already explained by Dr Stone). Dr Dop also provided key details to Delegates regarding the role of the Council and the Members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission in supporting the mandate of the OIE.

He reminded that elections to each governing body will be on Friday 28 May, by secret ballot and using the UK Engage Platform 2, as already explained during the regional trainings on related General Session virtual processes, organised by the OIE Regional Activities and Capacity Building Departments, which took place before the General Session. Drs Mark Schipp (Australia) and Michael Modisane (South Africa), both Council members, were appointed as scrutineers during the elections. In addition, an external legal expert will follow the whole process.

Each Regional Commission was invited to announce its nominations for the new Bureau and the Council immediately after the Regional Commission meeting, together with the final list of selected candidates for the Specialist Commissions.

9. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the OIE Council and the Specialist Commissions

Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane, Past President of the World Assembly of Delegates and Delegate of the Republic of South Africa, chaired the discussions regarding the proposal of candidates to be presented to the World Assembly for election on Friday 28 May. Proposals as follows:

Council:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Daniel Komla Batawui (Togo)

Dr Roland Xolani Dlamini (Eswatini)

Bureau of the Regional Commission:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

President: Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela (Democratic Republic of Congo)

Vice-President: Dr Letlhogile Modisa (Botswana)

Vice-President: Dr Mbargou Lo (Senegal)

Secretary General: Dr Anna Rose Ademun Okurut (Uganda)

Specialist Commissions:

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Prof. Salah Hammami (Tunisia) (proposed as Vice President)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr Kevin Christison (South Africa) (proposed as Member)

Biological Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Prof. Emmanuel Couacy-Hymann (Cote d'Ivoire) (proposed as President)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Baptiste Dungu (South Africa) (proposed as Member)

Dr Misheck Mulumba (Zambia) (proposed as Member)

10. Closing

The meeting officially ended at 3.14 p.m. CEST.

.../Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

**Paris, 24 May 2021
(1:00 p.m. CEST)**

Draft Agenda

- 12:45 p.m.– 1:10 p.m. Zoom check-in and connecting
- 1:10 p.m.– 1:15 p.m. Adoption of the agenda (Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo)
- 1:15 p.m.– 1:30 p.m. Outcomes of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held by videoconference from 9 to 11 February 2021 (Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela)
- 1:30 p.m.– 1:35 p.m. Confirmation of the venue of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2023 (Dr Letlhogile Modisa, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of Botswana)
- 1:35 p.m.– 1:45 p.m. Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (Dr Karim Tounkara, Regional Representative for Africa)
- 1:45 p.m.– 1:55 p.m. Proposal of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the OIE through various means (*Scientific and Technical Review, Bulletin*, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting) (Dr Letlhogile Modisa)
- 1:55 p.m.– 2:05 p.m. PVS Pathway External Evaluation and the next steps (Dr Barbara Alessandrini, Head of the Capacity-Building Department)

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

- 2:05 p.m.– 2:15 p.m. Elections for Specialist Commissions (Dr Matthew Stone, Deputy Director General "International Standards and Science")
- 2:15 p.m.– 2:25 p.m. Elections of the OIE governance bodies (Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, Deputy Director General "Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities")
- 2:25 p.m.– 3:10 p.m. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the OIE Council and the Specialist Commissions (Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane, Past President of the World Assembly of Delegates and Delegate of the Republic of South Africa)
- 3:10 p.m.– 3:20 p.m. Closing ceremony chaired by Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela and personal message by Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane.

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

Paris, 24 May 2021

The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas met by videoconference on 24 May 2021 at 4:00 p.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 80 participants, including Delegates and observers from 28 Members of the Commission and representatives from 10 International or Regional Organisations:

Members of the Commission: Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao, Dominican Rep, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, and Uruguay

International/Regional Organisations: ALA¹, CaribVET², CVP³, FAO⁴, IICA⁵, OIRSA⁶, PANVET⁷, SG-CAN⁸, SSAFE⁹ and WRO¹⁰.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Mark Trotman, President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of Barbados, supported by Dr Luis Osvaldo Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas.

¹ ALA: Latin American Poultry Association

² CaribVET: Caribbean Animal Health Network

³ CVP: Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone

⁴ FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

⁵ IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

⁶ OIRSA: Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria

⁷ PANVET: Pan American Association of Veterinary Sciences

⁸ SG-CAN: General Secretariat of the Andean Community

⁹ SSAFE: Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere

¹⁰ WRO: World Renderers Organisation

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted, after the addition of topics regarding the activities of the OIE Council, a discussion on the draft Resolution 31 proposed for adoption during the 88th General Session, as well as a discussion on the inter-regional support of candidates, and a request regarding the procedure of evaluation of performance of all members of each Specialist Commission approaching the end of their term.

2. Report on the activities of the OIE Council

Dr Hugo Idoyaga Benítez, Vice-President of the OIE Council and Delegate of Paraguay, remarked the relevant work adapting the OIE procedures and activities under the pandemic conditions and reaching a fully functional virtual General Session.

He highlighted the strategic decisions taken in order to maintain the OIE activities, including the development of the Seventh Strategic Plan, the OIE-WAHIS platform and the OIE Observatory, as well as other relevant projects.

Finally, he reminded Delegates on the need of stable positions for Council members candidatures, and thanked the Regional Commission, the Regional Representation, and the President of SENACSA¹¹, Dr Juan Carlos Martin, for their support to his contribution to the OIE Council activities.

3. Outcomes of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas held by videoconference, on 22 and 23 September 2020

Dr Mark Trotman briefly presented the outcomes of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas held on 22 and 23 September 2020 (by videoconference) and to which a total of 226 participants attended, including OIE Delegates and/or representatives from 30 Members of the region as well as 16 representatives from regional and international organisations, and the private sector including private veterinary organisations from the region.

Dr Trotman quickly commented on the agenda of the Conference highlighting some of the topics presented. All detailed information is available in the report of the Conference.

Finally, he reminded Delegates that the report of the conference was available in the Regional website.

4. Confirmation of the dates and venue of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in 2022

Dr Eva Luz Martínez Bermúdez, Delegate of Peru, reiterated her country's offer to host the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas in 2022.

Exact dates will be defined at a later stage in coordination with the OIE Director General.

¹¹ SENACSA: *Servicio Nacional de Calidad y Salud Animal, Paraguay.*

5. Confirmation of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item (with questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas:

“Emergencies and disasters management: Support from OIE Collaborating Centres”

6. Proposal of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the OIE through various means (*Scientific and Technical Review, Bulletin, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting*)

The Regional Commission proposed the following three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the OIE through various means:

- Emergencies and disasters management: Creation of networks, and the support from OIE Collaborating Centres
- Transboundary animal diseases, the value of the activities carried out by Veterinary Services and their economic and social impact, under the framework of the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Development of harmonised electronic certification systems and model certificates. Actions needed to support their implementation at the national, regional and global level

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

7. Elections for Specialist Commissions

Dr Matthew Stone, Deputy Director General "International Standards and Science", provided a brief update on the OIE's work to support OIE Specialist Commissions performance through a high-quality Common Secretariat driving standardised processes, as well as the implementation of a Performance Management Framework focused on continuous improvement and partnership, along with the evaluation of performance of all members of each Commission approaching the end of their term. He highlighted the open call and evaluation of candidates for election to the Specialist Commissions, being only the second time that OIE had made such a call, and briefed the Regional Commissions on how the voting for the elections would be performed on Friday 28 May.

8. Elections of the OIE governance bodies

Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, Deputy Director General "Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities", briefly presented the main aspects of the election process for the OIE governance bodies. He reminded the OIE cycle of elections, pointing out that the 88th General Session provided an opportunity to elect members of the Council and the Bureau of the Regional Commissions as well as the Specialist Commissions (as already explained by Dr Stone). Dr Dop also provided key details to Delegates regarding the role of the Council and the Members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission in supporting the mandate of the OIE.

He reminded that elections to each governing body will be on Friday 28 May, by secret ballot and using the UK Engage Platform 2, as already explained during the regional trainings on related General Session virtual processes, organised by the OIE Regional Activities and Capacity Building Departments, which took place before the General Session. Drs Mark Schipp (Australia) and Michael Modisane (South Africa), both Council members, were appointed as scrutineers during the elections. In addition, an external legal expert will follow the whole process.

Each Regional Commission was invited to announce its nominations for the new Bureau and the Council immediately after the Regional Commission meeting, together with the final list of selected candidates for the Specialist Commissions.

9. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the OIE Council and the Specialist Commissions

Dr Mark Trotman chaired the discussions regarding the proposal of candidates to be presented to the World Assembly for election on Friday 28 May.

Proposals were as follows:

Council:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Hugo Idoyaga Benítez (Paraguay) (proposed as President)

Dr Yobani Gutiérrez Ravelo (Cuba) (proposed as Member)

Bureau of the Regional Commission:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

President: Dr Jaspinder Komal (Canada)

Vice-President: Dr Wilmer Juárez Juárez (Nicaragua)

Vice-President: Dr Ximena Melón (Argentina)

Secretary General: Dr Arnold Dwarkasing (Curaçao)

Specialist Commissions:

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Bernardo Todeschini (Brazil)

Dr Gastón Funes (Argentina) (proposed as Vice President)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr Alicia Gallardo Lagno (Chile) (proposed as President)

Biological Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Chris Oura (Trinidad and Tobago)

Dr John Pasick (Canada) (proposed as Vice-President)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Cristóbal Zepeda (United States of America) (proposed as President)

Dr Caroline Dubé (Canada)

10. Other topics

Dr Ximena Melón, Delegate of Argentina, required the Regional Commission to support a position to be raised by the Regional Commission for Europe, on the point 6 of Resolution 31. Dr Melón shall distribute the position to the Members for review and feedback.

In addition, Dr Melón informed Delegates about the exchanges with the Regional Commission for Europe, proposing the inter-regional support of candidates for the different positions.

Finally, Dr Diego De Freitas, Delegate of Uruguay, asked the Regional Commission to support a request made by CVP Members on the need of receiving all the documents, procedures and information related to the evaluation of performance of all members of each Specialist Commission approaching the end of their term. For that, the CVP Secretariat shall distribute a communication to Delegates requesting their support to the initiative.

The Regional Commission for the Americas decided that Dr Mark Trotman shall act as main negotiator with other Regional Commissions regarding the different positions in the Specialist Commissions, as already stated in the present report.

11. Closing

The meeting officially ended at 6:50 p.m. CEST.

.../Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

**Paris, 24 May 2021
(4:00 p.m. CEST)**

Agenda

- 3:45 p.m.– 4:10 p.m. Zoom check-in and connecting
- 4:10 p.m.– 4:15 p.m. Adoption of the agenda (Dr Mark Trotman, President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of Barbados)
- 4:15 p.m.– 4:25 p.m. Report on the activities of the OIE Council
- 4:25 p.m.– 4:35 p.m. Outcomes of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas held by videoconference, on 22 and 23 September 2020 (Dr Mark Trotman)
- 4:35 p.m.– 4:45 p.m. Confirmation of the dates and venue of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in 2022 (Dr Eva Luz Martínez Bermúdez, Delegate of Peru)
- 4:45 p.m.– 4:55 p.m. Confirmation of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (Dr Mark Trotman)
- 4:55 p.m.– 5:05 p.m. Proposal of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the OIE through various means (*Scientific and Technical Review, Bulletin, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting*) (Dr Mark Trotman)

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

- 5:05 p.m.– 5:15 p.m. Elections for Specialist Commissions (Dr Matthew Stone, Deputy Director General "International Standards and Science")
- 5:15 p.m.– 5:25 p.m. Elections of the OIE governance bodies (Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, Deputy Director General "Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities")
- 5:25 p.m.– 6:25 p.m. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the OIE Council and the Specialist Commissions (Dr Mark Trotman)
- 6:25 p.m.– 6:45 p.m. Other topics
- 6:45 p.m.– 6:50 p.m. Closing

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

Paris, 24 May 2021

The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met by videoconference on 24 May 2021, at 7:00 a.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 64 participants, including Delegates and observers from 26 Members of the Commission and an observer country/territory and two representatives from 2 organisations:

Members of the Commission: Australia, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, Fidji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Korea (Dem. People's Rep. of), Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam.

Observer countries/territories: Hong Kong SAR

International/regional organisations: The Pacific Community (SPC) and World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA)

The meeting was chaired by Dr Mark Schipp, President of the World Assembly of Delegates and Delegate of Australia, accompanied by Dr Hirofumi Kugita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

2. Organisation of the 32nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in September 2021

Dr Sorravis Thaneto, Delegate of Thailand informed participants that due to the current sensitive sanitary situation, the Conference, initially planned to take place in Thailand, will be held virtually. He informed Delegates that Thailand will be working in close collaboration with the OIE colleagues to ensure the success of the Conference. Invitations and the draft programme should be sent soon to all Delegates.

3. Proposal of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the OIE through various means (*Scientific and Technical Review, Bulletin, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting*)

Considering the number of proposals of strategic topics received from the region, the Regional Commission decided to select four topics (instead of three) to be proposed as topics of global interest to be addressed by the OIE through various means. Proposals were as follows:

- One Health: zoonoses prevention/One Health.
- Trade: digitalising trade documentation and border clearance processes.

- Disease specific topic: ASF vaccine development, production, monitoring and control over vaccine and ASF contingency plans.
- Disease prevention and control: investigating new or possible transmission of infectious animal diseases which increases the risk of transboundary infectious diseases.

4. Proposal of the 3rd Regional Work Plan Framework 2021-2025

Dr Hirofumi Kugita, Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific presented an update on the development of the 3rd regional work plan framework which has been drafted in consultation with the Regional Core Group to build from the previous 2 regional workplan frameworks and taking into consideration the Seventh OIE Strategic Plan.

The draft will now be circulated to all Members of the region for comments with the aim to adopt a final version at the 32nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, to be held in September 2021.

5. Discussion on regional positions for the OIE General Session

Dr Him Hoo Yap, Member of the Council and Delegate of Singapore facilitated the discussion.

Dr Yap introduced a list of four proposals for regional common position, which was put together by the Regional Core Group considering all comments from Members.

There was discussion amongst the Delegates on the proposals and three of them were unanimously approved by the Regional Commission to be put forward at the plenary of the 88th General Session on behalf of the 36 OIE Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania.

Dr Yap concluded by thanking all regional Delegates for their active participation in the coordination procedure and expressed the hope that the region would continue to work to strengthen regional coordination and collaboration in order to develop regional positions on key issues.

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

6. Elections for Specialist Commissions

Dr Matthew Stone, Deputy Director General "International Standards and Science", provided a brief update on the OIE's work to support OIE Specialist Commissions performance through a high-quality Common Secretariat driving standardised processes, as well as the implementation of a Performance Management Framework focused on continuous improvement and partnership, along with the evaluation of performance of all members of each Commission approaching the end of their term. He highlighted the open call and evaluation of candidates for election to the Specialist Commissions, being only the second time that OIE had made such a call, and briefed the Regional Commissions on how the voting for the elections would be performed on Friday 28 May.

7. Elections of the OIE governance bodies

Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, Deputy Director General "Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities", briefly presented the main aspects of the election process for the OIE governance bodies. He reminded the OIE cycle of elections, pointing out that the 88th General Session provided an opportunity to elect members of the Council and the Bureaux of the Regional Commissions as well as the Specialist Commissions (as already explained by Dr Stone). Dr Dop also provided key details to Delegates regarding the role of the Council and the Members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission in supporting the mandate of the OIE.

He reminded that elections to each governing body will be on Friday 28 May, by secret ballot and using the UK Engage Platform 2, as already explained during the regional trainings on related General Session virtual processes, organised by the OIE Regional Activities and Capacity Building Departments, which took place before the General Session. Drs Mark Schipp (Australia) and Michael Modisane (South Africa), both Council members, were appointed as scrutineers during the elections. In addition, an external legal expert will follow the whole process.

Each Regional Commission was invited to announce its nominations for the new Bureau and the Council immediately after the Regional Commission meeting, together with the final list of selected candidates for the Specialist Commissions.

8. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the OIE Council and the Specialist Commissions

Dr Mark Schipp chaired the discussions regarding the proposal of candidates to be presented to the World Assembly for election on Friday 28 May. Proposals were as follows:

Council:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Mark Schipp (Australia) as current President will take position of Past President on the Council (this position is not submitted to the vote of the Assembly)

Dr Him Hoo Yap (Singapore) was proposed as the second council member representing the region.

Bureau of the Regional Commission:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

President: Dr Baoxu Huang (PR China)

Vice-President: Dr Tony Zohrab (New Zealand)

Vice-President: Dr Masatsugu Okita (Japan)

Secretary General: Dr Ye Tun Win (Myanmar)

Specialist Commissions:

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr Kiyokazu Murai (Japan)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Ingo Ernst (Australia) (proposed as President)

Dr Hong Liu (PR China)

Biological Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Joseph O'Keefe (New Zealand) (proposed as President/Vice-President)

Dr Satoko Kawaji (Japan)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Trevor Drew (Australia) (proposed as Vice-President)

Dr Carolyn Benigno (Philippines)

The Regional Commission also took the opportunity to nominate the members of the Regional Core Group (RCG). According to the regional common practices, the Members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, once elected by the World Assembly, will be automatically part of the RCG. Four additional Members were also accepted to join the RCG:

Ali Safar Maken Ali (Iran)

Coralie Lussiez (New Caledonia)

Nasrullah Nasrullah (Indonesia)

Atul Chaturvedi (India)

9. Closing

The meeting officially ended at 9:30 a.m. CEST.

.../Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

**Paris, 24 May 2021
(7:00 a.m. CEST)**

Agenda

- 6:45 a.m. - 7:10 a.m. Zoom check-in and connecting
- 7:10 a.m. - 7:15 a.m. Adoption of the agenda (Dr Mark Schipp, President of the World Assembly of Delegates and Delegate of Australia)
- 7:15 a.m. - 7:20 a.m. Organisation of the 32nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in September 2021 (Dr Sorraviv Thaneto, Delegate of Thailand).
- 7:20 a.m. - 7:30 a.m. Proposal of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the OIE through various means (*Scientific and Technical Review, Bulletin, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting*) (Dr Schipp)
- 7:30 a.m. - 7:35 a.m. Proposal of the 3rd Regional Work Plan Framework 2021-2025 (Dr Hirofumi Kugita, Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific)
- 7:35 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Discussion on regional positions for the OIE General Session (Dr Him Hoo Yap, Member of the Council and Delegate of Singapore)

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

- 8:00 a.m. - 8:10 a.m. Elections for Specialist Commissions (Dr Matthew Stone, Deputy Director General "International Standards and Science")
- 8:10 a.m. - 8:20 a.m. Elections of the OIE governance bodies (Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, Deputy Director General "Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities")
- 8:20 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the OIE Council and the Specialist Commissions (Dr Schipp)
- 9:00 a.m.– 9:10 a.m. Closing

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Paris, 24 May 2021

The OIE Regional Commission for Europe met by videoconference on 24 May 2021 at 10:00 a.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 111 participants, including Delegates and observers from 53 Members of the Commission and representatives from 3 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission:

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Rep., Denmark, Estonia, Finland, North Macedonia (Rep. of), France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldavia, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Uzbekistan.

International/regional organisations: European Commission, ICMM¹, and ICFAW/RSPCA².

The meeting was chaired by Dr Maris Balodis, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and OIE Delegate of Latvia, accompanied by Dr Budimir Plavsic, OIE Regional Representative for Europe.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

2. Outcomes of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe held by videoconference on 9 and 10 November 2020

Dr Ulrich Herzog, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and OIE Delegate of Austria, presented the main outcomes of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe held from 9 to 10 November 2020, by videoconference and to which a total of 140 participants attended, including OIE Delegates and/or representatives from 52 Members of the region (98,1%) and representatives from 10 regional and international organisations.

¹ ICMM: International Committee of Military Medicine

² ICFAW/RSPCA: International Coalition for Animal Welfare/Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Dr Herzog commented on the main topics from the agenda of the Conference highlighting key points including those mentioned by Dr Mark Schipp, President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates as well as Dr Maris Balodis, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Delegate of Latvia in their respective opening remarks. He also referred to the most important aspects of the presentation of Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Director General, on challenges for the development and implementation of the Seventh OIE Strategic Plan in the post-pandemic world of COVID-19, and lessons learned by the OIE Regional Commission in emergency situations, presented by Dr Balodis, as well as the national experiences presented by Delegates of Austria, Uzbekistan, and the Netherlands.

He reminded Delegates that the report of the conference was available in the Regional website.

All detailed information is available in the report of the Conference.

3. Confirmation of the dates and venue of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in 2022

Dr Davide Lecchini, OIE Delegate of Italy, reiterated his country's offer to host the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe in 2022, in Catania. Dr Lecchini suggested to organise it in late September. Exact dates will be defined at a later stage in coordination with the OIE Director General.

4. Confirmation of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe

The Regional Commission confirmed that the technical item (with questionnaire to Members) "*Long distance transport of live animals: OIE standards and best practices including societal perception and communication aspects*", initially selected for the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission, will be included in the agenda of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe.

5. Proposal of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the OIE through various means (*Scientific and Technical Review, Bulletin, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting*)

The Regional Commission proposed, after several online consultations from April to May, including within the Regional Core Group, and with support of the electronic polling process, the following three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the OIE through various means:

- Pandemic preparedness: Planning, capacity building, zoonotic surveillance, coordination between Competent Authorities
- One Health: Coordination, communication and cooperation between Veterinary, Public Health and Environmental Protection services on priority topics
- Animal welfare: The implications on international trade and consumer expectations

6. Application from UK/Netherlands/Norway for an OIE Collaborating Centre consortium on Economics of Animal Health

Dr Christine Middlemiss, Delegate of United Kingdom, introduced Professor Jonathan Rushton from the University of Liverpool, who presented to the Regional Commission the application from UK/Netherlands/Norway for the OIE to consider a new OIE Collaborating Centre consortium for Economics of Animal Health. The consortium will be led by the Global Burden of Animal Diseases Programme at the University of Liverpool with two partners, the Norwegian Veterinary Institute, and the Utrecht University.

Professor Rushton provided a brief review of the proposal and said that full details had already been shared with Delegates.

The proposal was approved unanimously by the Regional Commission, after electronic poll of OIE Delegates or Accredited Delegates.

7. Discussion on common positions for selected OIE Codes chapters (to be possibly proposed on behalf of the 53 Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe during the 88th General Session)

The Regional Commission agreed that a common position be put forward at the 88th General Session on behalf of the 53 Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, on the following 16 items:

1) *Terrestrial Animal Health Code:*

- Glossary: Europe supports the adoption of the revised glossary as presented (Speaker Montenegro).
- Chapter 1.3 (diseases listed by the OIE): Europe supports the adoption of the revised chapter 1.3 as presented (Speaker Latvia).
- Chapter 3.1 (quality of veterinary services): Europe supports the adoption of the revised chapter 3.1 as presented (Speaker United Kingdom).
- Chapter 3.2 (evaluation of veterinary services): Europe supports the adoption of the revised chapter 3.2 as presented (Speaker Latvia).
- Chapter 3.X (introduction to recommendations on veterinary services): Europe supports the adoption of the new chapter 3.X as presented (Speaker Austria).
- Chapter 4.4 (zoning and compartmentalization): Europe supports the adoption of the revised chapter 4.4 as presented (Speaker Switzerland).
- Chapter 10.4 (infection with avian influenza viruses): Europe supports the adoption of the revised chapter 10.4 as presented (Speaker Georgia).
- Chapter 14.7 (infection with peste des petits ruminants virus): Europe supports the adoption of the revised chapter 14.7 as presented (Speaker Latvia).
- Chapter 15.2 (infection with classical swine fever virus): Europe supports the adoption of the revised chapter 15.2 as presented (Speaker Austria).

2) *Aquatic Animal Health Code*: Europe supports the adoption of all revised Aquatic Code chapters as presented (Speaker Montenegro), namely:

- Annex 2 – Glossary.
- Annex 3 – Biosecurity for aquaculture establishments.
- Annex 4 – Disease of crustaceans listed by the OIE.
- Annex 5 – Model article 10.X.13.
- Annex 6 – Infection with Spring Viraemia of Carp virus.
- Annex 7 – infection with Viral Haemorrhagic Septicaemia virus.
- Annex 8 – infection with *Bonamia ostreae*.

8. The third Action Plan for OIE Animal Welfare Platform for Europe (2021-2023): proposal for adoption by the Regional Commission.

Dr Roberto Balbo, OIE Subregional Representative in Brussels, briefly presented the desired impact of the third Action Plan to improve animal welfare in Europe through a series of activities on identified priority topics (slaughter, transport, stray dog population control, welfare of animals in disasters and working equids).

The Regional Commission unanimously adopted the third Action Plan for OIE Animal Welfare Platform for Europe for 2021-2023.

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

9. Elections for Specialist Commissions

Dr Matthew Stone, Deputy Director General "International Standards and Science", provided a brief update on the OIE's work to support OIE Specialist Commissions performance through a high-quality Common Secretariat driving standardised processes, as well as the implementation of a Performance Management Framework focused on continuous improvement and partnership, along with the evaluation of performance of all members of each Commission approaching the end of their term. He highlighted the open call and evaluation of candidates for election to the Specialist Commissions, being only the second time that OIE had made such a call, and briefed the Regional Commission on how the voting for the elections would be performed on Friday 28 May.

10. Elections of the OIE governance bodies

Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, Deputy Director General "Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities", briefly presented the main aspects of the election process for the OIE governance bodies. He reminded the OIE cycle of elections, pointing out that the 88th General Session provided an opportunity to elect members of the Council and the Bureaux of the Regional Commissions as well as the Specialist Commissions (as already explained by Dr Stone). Dr Dop also provided key details to Delegates regarding the role of the Council and the Members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission in supporting the mandate of the OIE.

He reminded that elections to each governing body will be on Friday 28 May, by secret ballot and using the UK Engage Platform 2, as already explained during the regional trainings on related General Session virtual processes, organised by the OIE Regional Activities and Capacity Building Departments, which took place before the General Session. Drs Mark Schipp (Australia) and Michael Modisane (South Africa), both Council members, were appointed as scrutineers during the elections. In addition, an external legal expert will follow the whole process.

Each Regional Commission was invited to announce its nominations for the new Bureau and the Council immediately after the Regional Commission meeting, together with the final list of selected candidates for the Specialist Commissions.

11. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the OIE Council and the Specialist Commissions

Dr Maris Balodis chaired the discussions regarding the proposal of candidates to be presented to the World Assembly for election on Friday 28 May. Proposals were as follows:

Council:

The Delegates of the Region unanimously agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Christianne Brusckhe (The Netherlands) (as Vice President)

Dr Konstantin Savenkov (Russian Federation)

Bureau of the Regional Commission:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names for the different positions:

President: Dr Maris Balodis (Latvia)

Vice-President: Dr Ulrich Herzog (Austria)

Vice-President: Ms Vesna Dakovic (Montenegro)

Secretary General: Dr Vasili Basiladze (Georgia)

Specialist Commissions:

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Etienne Bonbon (France) (proposed as President)

Dr Lucio Carbajo Goni (Spain)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Fiona Geoghegan (Ireland) (proposed as Vice President)

Dr Espen Rimstad (Norway)

Biological Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Ann Cullinane (Ireland) (proposed as Vice President)

Dr Donald King (UK)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Silvia Bellini (Italy)

Dr Kris De Clercq (Belgium) (proposed as Vice President)

12. OIE Animal Welfare Platform for Europe, selection of the new composition of the Animal Welfare Steering Group

The Regional Commission decided on the new composition of the Animal Welfare Steering Group as follows:

- Ireland
- Israel
- Kazakhstan
- North Macedonia
- Portugal

13. Selection of the New Composition of the RCG

The Regional Commission decided on the new composition of Regional Core Group as follows:

- Belarus
- Ireland
- Spain
- Switzerland
- Uzbekistan

14. Closing

Dr Balodis thanked the Members of the Regional Commission for a productive session, their active approach in the process for selecting candidates for the election to take place on Friday and thanked the OIE for its high-level support. Prompted for closing comments, Dr Plavsic, on behalf of the OIE, congratulated Dr Balodis for his effective chairing of the meeting, and all 53 Members for a very productive start of the 88th General Session with an active participation in the Regional Commission meeting.

The meeting officially ended at 12:15 p.m. CEST.

.../Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**Paris, 24 May 2021
(10:00 a.m. CEST)**

Agenda

- 09:45 a.m.– 10:00 a.m. Zoom check-in and connecting
- 10:00 a.m.–10:05 a.m. Adoption of the agenda (Dr Maris Balodis, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Delegate of Latvia)
- 10:05 a.m. –10:20 a.m. Outcomes of the 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe held by videoconference on 9-10 November 2020 (Dr Ulrich Herzog, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Delegate of Austria)
- 10:20 a.m. – 10:25 a.m. Confirmation of the dates and venue of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in 2022 (Dr Davide Lecchini, Delegate of Italy)
- 10:25 a.m. – 10:35 a.m. Confirmation of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) (“*Long distance transport of live animals: OIE standards and best practices including societal perception and communication aspects*”) to be included in the agenda of the 30th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (Dr Maris Balodis)
- 10:35 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Proposal of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the OIE through various means (*Scientific and Technical Review, Bulletin, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting*) (Dr Maris Balodis)
- 10:45 a.m. – 10:55 a.m. Application from UK/Netherlands/Norway for an OIE Collaborating Centre consortium on Economics of Animal Health (Dr Christine Middlemiss, Delegate of United Kingdom, Professor Jonathan Rushton, University of Liverpool)
- 10:55 a.m.– 11:25 a.m. Discussion on common positions for selected OIE Codes chapters (to be possibly proposed on behalf of the 53 Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe during the 88th General Session) (Dr Maris Balodis)
- 11:25 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The third Action Plan for OIE Animal Welfare Platform for Europe (2021-2023): proposal for adoption by the Regional Commission (Dr Roberto Balbo, OIE Subregional Representative in Brussels)

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

- 11:30 a.m.– 11:40 a.m. Elections for Specialist Commissions (Dr Matthew Stone, Deputy Director General "International Standards and Science")
- 11:40 a.m.– 11:50 p.m. Elections of the OIE governance bodies (Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, Deputy Director General "Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities")

- 11:50 a.m.– 12:35 p.m. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the OIE Council and the Specialist Commissions (Dr Maris Balodis)
- 12:35 p.m.– 12:45 p.m. OIE Animal Welfare Platform for Europe, selection of the new composition of the Animal Welfare Steering Group (Dr Roberto Balbo)
- 12:45 p.m.– 12:55 p.m. Selection of the New Composition of the RCG (Dr Maris Balodis)
- 12:55 p.m.– 1:00 p.m. Closing

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR MIDDLE EAST**

Paris, 24 May 2021

The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 24 May 2021 at 9:00 a.m. CEST by videoconference. The meeting was attended by 38 participants, including Delegates and observers from 15 Members of the Commission and one representative from a Regional Organisation:

Members of the Commission: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, and United Arab Emirates.

International/regional organisations: AOAD¹.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Elias Ibrahim, President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East and Delegate of Lebanon accompanied by Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

2. Organisation of the 16th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in November 2021

Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East informed participants that due to the current sensitive sanitary situation the Conference will be held virtually.

He briefly detailed the proposed topics to be included in the agenda as discussed with the Regional Core Group in order to ensure that regional needs are addressed.

3. Decision regarding the Technical Items to be included in the agenda of the 16th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East

Dr Fajer Al Salloom, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East and Delegate of Bahrain, informed participants that due to the virtual format of the 16th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in November 2021 and its reduced agenda, it was decided not to include technical items. She briefly detailed the proposed topics to be included in the agenda as discussed with the Regional Core Group to ensure that regional needs are addressed.

- a. The activities of the OIE RR and SRR 2020 - 2021
- b. The Socio-economics of animal health: Direct and indirect costs of animal diseases outbreaks. Lessons learnt in the region: RVF, Glanders, Avian Influenza, FMD new strains,

¹ AOAD: Arab Organization for Agricultural Development

- c. Outcomes and the way forward of the PPR and FMD pathways in the region
- d. Regional planning on Rabies control
- e. Revision of the BESST initiative outcomes.
- f. Review of the previous meetings recommendations
- g. Regional Laboratory networking
- h. Water pollution impact on Aquaculture
- i. AMR draft of a regional plan.
- j. Collaboration with other regional and international agencies
- k. Regional research and publications on Corona viruses

4. Proposal of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the OIE through various means (*Scientific and Technical Review, Bulletin, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting*)

The Regional Commission proposed the following three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the OIE through various means:

- Update research on MERS CoV and other Corona viruses
- Impact of climate change on RVF virus activity
- Trade and movement of animals: the EDFZ and HHP approaches

5. PVS Pathway External Evaluation and the next steps

Dr Barbara Alessandrini, Head of the Capacity-Building Department, briefly commented on the PVS external evaluation carried out in 2020 to assess the relevance of the programme to Members, its effectiveness, impact, and opportunities for improvement. She underlined that, the evaluation showed that PVS was a story of success, but also of frustration as Members were set for improvement through the PVS, but it was difficult to contextualise it, while the wealth of PVS data was not adequately used.

She also commented on the recommendations of the evaluation which provided inputs on increasing uptake, respect of the core principles, connection to other OIE functions, enhancing impact, and programme evolution.

Dr Alessandrini concluded by informing that the OIE response consisted in a mid-term strategy crossing through all the pathway steps, investing on new technologies and digitalization, aiming at increasing and facilitating access and participation in the programme activities, data use and sharing, needs and impact assessment, and at generating new synergies with the other OIE and partners' programmes.

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

6. Elections for Specialist Commissions

Dr Matthew Stone, Deputy Director General "International Standards and Science", provided a brief update on the OIE's work to support OIE Specialist Commissions performance through a high-quality Common Secretariat driving standardised processes, as well as the implementation of a Performance Management Framework focused on continuous improvement and partnership, along with the evaluation of performance of all members of each Commission approaching the end of their term. He highlighted the open call and evaluation of candidates for election to the Specialist Commissions, being only the second time that OIE had made such a call, and briefed the Regional Commissions on how the voting for the elections would be performed on Friday 28 May.

7. Elections of the OIE governance bodies

Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, Deputy Director General "Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities", briefly presented the main aspects of the election process for the OIE governance bodies. He reminded the OIE cycle of elections, pointing out that the 88th General Session provided an opportunity to elect members of the Council and the Bureaux of the Regional Commissions as well as the Specialist Commissions (as already explained by Dr Stone). Dr Dop also provided key details to Delegates regarding the role of the Council and the Members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission in supporting the mandate of the OIE.

He reminded that elections to each governing body will be on Friday 28 May, by secret ballot and using the UK Engage Platform 2, as already explained during the regional trainings on related General Session virtual processes, organised by the OIE Regional Activities and Capacity Building Departments, which took place before the General Session. Drs Mark Schipp (Australia) and Michael Modisane (South Africa), both Council members, were appointed as scrutineers during the elections. In addition, an external legal expert will follow the whole process.

Each Regional Commission was invited to announce its nominations for the new Bureau and the Council immediately after the Regional Commission meeting, together with the final list of selected candidates for the Specialist Commissions.

8. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the OIE Council and the Specialist Commissions

Dr Elias Ibrahim chaired the discussions regarding the proposal of candidates to be presented to the World Assembly for election on Friday 28 May. Proposals as follows:

Council:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr Majid Sultan Al Qassimi (United Arab Emirates) (proposed as Vice President)

Bureau of the Regional Commission:

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

President: Dr Fajer Sabah Al Salloom (Bahrain)

Vice-President: Dr Sanad Al Harbi (Saudi Arabia)

Vice-President: Dr Abdul Hakim Mahmoud Ali (Egypt)

Secretary General: Dr Elias Ibrahim (Lebanon)

Specialist Commissions:

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region did not propose any candidate.

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region did not propose any candidate.

Biological Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region did not propose any candidate.

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed name:

Dr Fevziye Keskin (Turkey)

9. Closing

The meeting officially ended at 10:40 a.m. CEST.

.../Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

**Paris, 24 May 2021
(9:00 a.m. CEST)**

Agenda

- 8:45 a.m.– 9:10 a.m. Zoom check-in and connecting
- 9:10 p.m.– 9:15 p.m. Adoption of the agenda (Dr Elias Ibrahim, President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East and Delegate of Lebanon)
- 9:15 p.m. – 9:25 p.m. Organisation of the 16th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in November 2021 (Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East)
- 9:25 p.m. – 9:35 p.m. Decision regarding the Technical Items to be included in the agenda of the 16th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (Dr Fajer Al Salloom, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East and Delegate of Bahrain)
- 9:35 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Proposal of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the OIE through various means (*Scientific and Technical Review, Bulletin, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting*) (Dr Majid Al Qassimi)
- 9:45 a.m.– 9:55 a.m. PVS Pathway External Evaluation and the next steps (Dr Barbara Alessandrini, Head of the Capacity-Building Department)

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

- 9:55 a.m.– 10:05 a.m. Elections for Specialist Commissions (Dr Matthew Stone, Deputy Director General "International Standards and Science")
- 10:05 a.m.– 10:15 a.m. Elections of the OIE governance bodies (Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, Deputy Director General "Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities")
- 10:15 a.m.– 10:50 a.m. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the OIE Council and the Specialist Commissions (Dr Elias Ibrahim)
- 10:50 a.m.– 11:00 a.m. Closing