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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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80TH MEETING OF THE SPS COMMITTEE

COMMUNICATION FROM THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE)

The following communication, received on 21 June 2021, is being circulated at the request of the OIE.

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) is pleased to provide this report for the information of WTO Members attending the 80th meeting of the SPS Committee.

88th General Session

For the first time ever, the 88th Annual General Session of the World Assembly of delegates was held virtually from Monday 24 to Friday 28 May 2021.

The General Session included the adoption of administrative and technical resolutions as well as the election of members of the governing bodies of the OIE (OIE Council and of the Bureaux of the Regional Commissions), and the members of the four OIE Specialist Commissions. Approximately 400 participants from 165 countries participated in the live event, including representatives of OIE members as well as observers from partner organizations. More than 800 people connected to the livestream.

Dr Monique Eloit was re-elected as the Director General to serve another five-year term.

OIE national delegates adopted 31 Resolutions. The [Report of the 88th General Session](#) and [adopted Resolutions](#) are available on the OIE website.

1 STANDARD SETTING ACTIVITIES AT THE 88TH GENERAL SESSION

1.1. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent postponement of the 2020 General Session no new or revised standards for the OIE International Standards had been adopted since 2019. The consequence of this was that a larger number of new and revised standards than usual were adopted at the 88th General Session.

1.2. The OIE delegates adopted updated texts in the OIE International standards: the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code), the Aquatic Animal Health Code (Aquatic Code), the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual), and the Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals (Aquatic Manual).

1.3. Amendments adopted at the General Session comprised thirteen revised chapters and three new chapters in the Terrestrial Code; thirty-seven revised chapters and one new chapter in the Terrestrial Manual; eight revised chapters and one new chapter in the Aquatic Code and seven revised chapters and one new chapter in the Aquatic Manual. In addition to the adoption of new and revised chapters, some Glossary definitions were amended, and new definitions added in the two Codes.

1.4. Information regarding all new and revised text adopted in the OIE International standards are available in the report of the [88th General Session](#).

1.5. More details about new and revised texts in the OIE International standards of interest to the SPS Committee are noted below.

1.1 Terrestrial Code

1.6. Avian influenza:

- A revised Terrestrial Code Chapter 10.4. Infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses was adopted. The chapter was amended to focus on infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses, in line with the changes to the OIE listed disease. It includes a new article on safe commodities and two new articles defining a compartment free from high pathogenicity avian influenza and recommendations for its establishment. It also contains new and revised recommendations on surveillance for avian influenza, including surveillance for demonstrating freedom from infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza, and revised provisions for the recovery of freedom;
- 'Infection of domestic and captive wild birds with low pathogenicity avian influenza viruses having proven natural transmission to humans associated with severe consequences' was added to the OIE list of diseases (Article 1.3.6) so that the outbreaks are notified to the OIE;
- The Glossary definition for 'poultry' was amended to provide more clarity on the different kind of birds covered by the definition, for the purposes of the Terrestrial Code;
- The Terrestrial Manual chapter on Avian influenza was also updated, including amendments to reflect the current knowledge of the disease and ensure alignment with the changes adopted in the Terrestrial Code chapter.

1.7. A new Chapter 8.Y. Infection with *Trypanosoma brucei*, *T. congolense*, *T. simiae* and *T. vivax* was adopted to provide the appropriate risk management recommendations. Infection with *Trypanosoma brucei*, *T. congolense*, *T. simiae* and *T. vivax* was also added to the OIE list of diseases (Article 1.3.1). The corresponding *Terrestrial Manual* chapter was also revised and adopted. The OIE will continue to work on reviewing and developing its standards to address other relevant trypanosomes species and host animals.

1.8. A revised Chapter 15.2. Infection with classical swine fever virus was adopted, aimed at ensuring alignment with other disease-specific chapters, notably those for which the OIE grants official recognition of the disease status.

1.9. Infection of dromedary camels with Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS CoV) was added to the OIE list of diseases (Article 1.3.9).

1.10. A revised Chapter 1.6. Procedures for self-declaration and for official recognition by the OIE was adopted. The revised chapter provides further details on the requirements for official recognition of animal health and risk status, and endorsement of an official control programme by the OIE.

1.11. Section 3. Quality of veterinary services was comprehensively revised to reflect the contemporary activities and responsibilities of the Veterinary Services and to ensure better alignment with other chapters in the *Terrestrial Code*. Revised chapters on Quality of Veterinary Services, Evaluation of Veterinary Services, and Veterinary Legislation were adopted. A new chapter to introduce the concept of Veterinary Services, their role and importance, and to introduce the structure of Section 3 was added.

1.12. A new Chapter 4.Y. Official control programmes for listed and emerging diseases was adopted that provides recommendations for the preparation, development and implementation of official control programmes for listed and emerging diseases.

1.13. Chapter 4.4. Zoning and compartmentalisation was revised to address the concept of 'protection zone', in order to improve its practical function as a temporary risk management strategy to minimise the impact that a disease introduction would have on an entire country or zone. This

revised concept was also incorporated into the OIE processes for the official recognition of animal health or risk status by the OIE.

1.14. The online version of the 29th edition (2021) of the [Terrestrial Code](#) will soon be available and can be accessed from the OIE public website.

1.2 Terrestrial Manual

1.15. A new chapter on Middle East respiratory syndrome (infection of dromedary camels with Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus) was adopted to provide diagnostic techniques for this newly listed disease.

1.16. Chapter 2.1.2. Biotechnology advances in the diagnosis of infectious diseases, was updated by an expert consultation to better reflect new technologies developed since it was last updated in 2012.

1.17. Chapter 3.3.4. Avian influenza (including infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses) was amended in line with the revisions to the corresponding chapter in the *Terrestrial Code*.

1.18. Chapter 3.3.14. Newcastle disease (infection with Newcastle disease virus) the taxonomy was amended to reflect the new nomenclature APMV-1. The information on sampling and initial testing in both chapters was revised and harmonised.

1.19. Chapter 3.2.7. Varroosis of honey bees (infestation of honey bees with *Varroa* spp.) was thoroughly updated to reflect the latest scientific information.

1.20. Chapter 3.5.3. Nagana: infections with salivarian trypanosomoses (excluding *Trypanosoma evansi* and *T. equiperdum*): the ratings of tests in Table 1 were reviewed and the corresponding diagnostic methods were added or updated.

1.21. Chapter 3.6.2. Rabbit haemorrhagic disease was updated to reflect the changing patterns of disease and technical developments.

1.22. Chapter 3.7.9. Peste des petits ruminants (infection with small ruminant morbillivirus), the section on requirements for vaccines was updated, especially the method of manufacture and final product batch tests.

1.23. The online versions of these new and revised chapters will be available shortly in the [Terrestrial Manual](#).

1.3 Aquatic Code and Aquatic Manual

1.24. A new chapter 4.X. Biosecurity for aquaculture establishments was adopted to provide guidance on the key principles of aquatic animal biosecurity and will support increased biosecurity in aquaculture establishments.

1.25. Infection with decapod iridescent virus 1 was adopted as a listed disease of crustaceans which will support transparent and timely notification of disease and support members in preventing transboundary spread.

1.26. The list of susceptible species in the disease-specific chapters on Infection with spring viraemia of carp virus, Infection with viral haemorrhagic septicaemic virus and Infection with *Bonamia ostreae* in the Aquatic Code and Aquatic Manual were amended after consideration of the work of the ad hoc Groups on Susceptibility of fish and molluscs species to infection with OIE listed diseases.

1.27. A new chapter on Infection with *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* was adopted for inclusion in the Aquatic Manual. Chapters on infection with *Gyrodactylus salaris*, Infection with salmonid alphavirus, infection with spring viraemia of carp virus, infection with infectious haematopoietic necrosis virus and infection with viral haemorrhagic septicaemia virus in the *Aquatic Manual* were revised using the new disease-chapter template and adopted.

1.28. The online version of the 23rd edition (2021) of the [Aquatic Code](#) will soon be available and can be accessed from the OIE public website.

2 OFFICIAL OIE RECOGNITION OF ANIMAL HEALTH STATUS AND CONTROL PROGRAMMES OF MEMBER COUNTRIES

2.1. OIE members can apply to be included in the list of countries with an officially recognised status for the following six priority diseases: bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), foot and mouth disease (FMD), contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), African horse sickness, peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and classical swine fever (CSF).

2.2. At the 88th General Session, several countries or zones of countries obtained official recognition of their status:

- One zone of Brazil (re-zoning) and one zone in Colombia were officially recognised as being 'free from CSF';
- Italy and Paraguay were officially recognised as being 'free from CBPP';
- North Macedonia was officially recognised as being 'free from PPR';
- Canada and Ireland were officially recognised as having a 'negligible BSE risk';
- Three zones in Brazil were officially recognised as 'free from FMD without vaccination', and one zone in Colombia and two zones in Russia were officially recognised as 'free from FMD with vaccination'.

2.3. In addition to official status recognition, two countries, Namibia and Philippines were recognised as having an OIE endorsed official control programme for dog-mediated rabies. These were the first members to receive this endorsement.

2.4. The [full list of countries and their recognised status for AHS, BSE, CBPP, CSF, FMD, and PPR can be accessed online](#) the OIE public website.

3 AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH STRATEGY

3.1. The first [OIE Aquatic Animal Health Strategy](#) (2021-2025) was launched at the 88th General Session with the support of its 182 members. The strategy will improve aquatic animal health and welfare worldwide, contributing to sustainable economic growth, poverty alleviation and food security, thereby supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

4 TECHNICAL ITEM

4.1. The Technical Item for the 88th General Session was '[Lessons learned prior to and during the pandemic: How the OIE can support Veterinary Services to achieve One Health resilience](#)'. The Technical Item analyzed evidence gathered through surveys, studies, and consultations. It also used data from the PVS Pathway mission reports and from OIE-WAHIS. Key areas addressed by the Technical Item were lessons learned from the OIE's involvement in the response to COVID-19; vulnerabilities to One Health resilience which were identified to include a lack of attention to wildlife health management, and its inadequate integration into animal health and One Health strategies; weaknesses in OIE members' capacity to put emergency management measures into operation (leading to a lack of preparedness); and chronic systemic weaknesses in the sustainability of diagnostic laboratory systems.

4.2. Resolution No. 31 'How OIE can support Veterinary Services to achieve One Health resilience' was drafted by Delegates and their nominated experts from a selection of countries (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, France, Georgia, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and the United States of America) and was adopted by the World Assembly during the General Session. It recommends: enhanced multisectoral working (emergency management, wildlife); integration of wildlife health into core animal health and one health strategies, to manage the risk of disease emergence whilst protecting wildlife health and biodiversity; building global capacity for emergency management; addressing sustainability (adaptation to country needs, capacity, resources, and risk profile; sharing resources, models and best practices); inclusion of veterinary services in high level multisectoral platforms (disaster and

emergency plans); use of innovation to make progress; adopt all hazards approach, holistic and systems-based thinking to better address One Health and complex global challenges.

5 GLOBAL ANIMAL HEALTH SITUATION

5.1. Due to the shortened 88th General Session, the annual report on the current animal health situation worldwide was provided by video format prior to the General Session on the OIE website. The video focused on some indicators of country reporting followed by a brief description of four animal diseases for which epizootic situations were observed in 2020 and early 2021. It concluded with an update on the OIE-WAHIS platform. The video was developed using an interactive presentation, which was shared with members, allowing them to discover and explore the data.

5.2. The Video and [Interactive presentation](#) are available on the OIE website.
