Rights and Responsibilities of OIE Delegates and Focal Points

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Plan

• Introduction
• Statutory aspects
• Rights and responsibilities
• National focal points roles

Office International des Epizooties

World Organisation for Animal Health

- An intergovernmental Organisation
- Founded in 1924 by 28 countries
- Predates the U.N.

Common name adopted by the International Committee on May 2003
Some key facts

- 175 Members (January 2010)
- Five Permanent Regional Representations: Bamako (Mali), Buenos Aires (Argentina), Tokyo (Japan), Sofia (Bulgaria) and Beirut (Lebanon)
- Five Sub-regional Offices: Bangkok (Thailand), Gaborone (Botswana), Panama, Brussels (Belgium), Tunis (Tunisia)
- Regional Commissions: Africa, America, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Middle East

The OIE's global objective

The OIE was created in 1924 to prevent animal diseases from spreading around the world

The 4th Strategic Plan 2006/2010 extends the OIE's global mandate to “the improvement of animal health all over the world”

OIE Structure

WORLD ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES

Council
Director General

SPECIALIST COMMISSIONS
- Terrestrial Code, Laboratories, Aquatic animals, Scientific for Animal Diseases

REGIONAL COMMISSIONS
- Africa, Americas, Europe, Asia-Far East and Oceania, Middle East

HEADQUARTERS
- (85 persons from 26 countries)

Collaborating Centres
Reference Laboratories

Ad hoc Groups
Working Groups

Regional and sub-Regional Representations
**STATUTORY ASPECTS**

**Organic position**

- OIE is subject to the authority of the [World Assembly of Delegates](#) (International Agreement of 1924 – Article 2)

- Delegate is appointed by the Government of the Member Country or Territory and represents it to the World Assembly of Delegates (Organic Statutes – Article 6)
• The permanent Delegate is a technical representative chosen by the State taking into account its capabilities.
• The permanent Delegate heads the Delegation of the Member Country or Territory to the World Assembly of Delegates (Organic Rules – Article 4).

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

• Delegates exercise the right to vote of the Member Country or Territory. May be accompanied by an alternate who, in the absence of the Delegate, enjoys the same prerogatives (Organic Rules – Article 5).
• The Delegate is a permanent Delegate who enjoys permanent and full rights to represent the State on the World Assembly of Delegates (General Session) and to maintain permanent relations along the year with the OIE.
• The Delegate is considered as empowered with national prerogatives to represent its country having permanently the corresponding national status.
Payment of contributions

• The Delegate must guarantee the regular payment of the Member’s compulsory contributions to the OIE.

• He or she may respond the Headquarters to:
  • Call for Contributions for the next year (May)

• Then, if applicable:
  • Recall for Contributions (October)

Maintaining permanent relations with OIE

Animal Health Information
• Present at International Committee a report on animal health situation and prophylaxis methods applied at country (General Rules – Article 50)

• Notify to OIE animal diseases present in Member Country or Territory, in accordance with Chapter 1.1. of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code and Aquatic Animal Health Code.

OIE standards
• Ensure that animal health legislation in his/her country is based on OIE reference standards or on a scientific risk analysis carried out in accordance with Section 2 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code and the Aquatic Animal Health Code, and WTO/SPS Agreement.

• Ensures that, as far as possible, the resolutions of the World Assembly of Delegates are applied.

• Ensure that Veterinary Services are kept updated on OIE standards,

• Maintain informed the national animal disease diagnostic laboratories of the activities of the OIE worldwide network of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, in order to promote scientific and technical cooperation in this field.
Critically important

- OIE Delegates should realise and accept their responsibility to participate actively in the debate and setting of international standards.
- Once a standard is adopted, the Delegate is obligated to support the adopted standard.
- Focal points have an important role in the standard setting procedure, through the preparation of comments for the Delegate for new or revised OIE standards.
Maintaining permanent relations with OIE

Focal points
- The Delegate is requested to designate, if possible, national focal points to comply with national obligations and to support him/her in the following fields:
  - animal disease notification,
  - wildlife,
  - aquatic animals diseases,
  - veterinary products,
  - animal production food safety,
  - animal welfare.

NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS

ROLES

Terms of reference
- Activities of the focal points in relation with OIE rights and obligations are under the authority of the OIE Delegate.
- Information transmitted to the OIE from focal points must be under the designated authority of the OIE Delegate either if focal points are:
  - under jurisdiction of the Veterinary Authority, or
  - located in other Departments or Ministries not under jurisdiction of Veterinary Authority
- From a legal perspective, the OIE considers the official OIE Delegate to be the unique representative of the country.
Animal Disease Notification to the OIE

- Ensure the optimal collection and submission of information on relevant animal diseases.
- Act as a direct contact point with the OIE Animal Health Information Department.
- In charge of animal disease notification to the OIE.
- They should be preferably the responsible of the National Epidemiological Unit.
- Key players in WAHIS through optimal use of the online notification system.

Animal Disease Notification to the OIE (2)

- Information providers to OIE and through the OIE to the rest of the world and they play a major role at the national level to gather good quality information needed to be processed into WAHIS.
- OIE Delegate nominates into WAHIS secure web application his/her focal points.
- Kinds of online access that can be given by the Delegate to the Focal Points:
  - to notify on terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases
  - to notify on terrestrial animal diseases only
  - to notify on aquatic animal diseases only.

Aquatic animals

- Establish a network of aquatic animal health experts within his country or to communicate with existing network;
- Establish a dialogue, cooperation and communication with Competent Authority for aquatic animal health and relevant authorities;
- Support collection and submission of aquatic animal disease information to the OIE through WAHIS in relation with the Focal Point for terrestrial animal disease notification (when relevant).
Aquatic animals (2)

- Act as a contact point with the OIE Animal Health Information Department in relation with terrestrial animal disease notification (when relevant)
- Receive reports of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission and other relevant reports, and conduct the in-country consultation process
- Prepare comments for the Delegate on relevant meeting reports, including comments on the proposals for new or revised OIE standards related to aquatic animals.

Animal welfare

- Establish a network of animal welfare experts within his/her country or communicate with existing network;
- Establish a dialogue, cooperation and communication with Competent Authority for animal welfare and relevant authorities;
- Receive reports of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission) and of the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group and other relevant reports and conduct the in-country consultation process
- Prepare comments for the Delegate on relevant meeting reports, including comments on the proposals for new or revised OIE standards related to animal welfare.

Animal production food safety

- Establish a network of Animal Production Food Safety experts within his/her country or communicate with existing network;
- Establish a dialogue, cooperation and communication with Competent Authority for Animal Production Food Safety and relevant authorities;
- Receive reports of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission) and of the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety and other relevant reports and conduct the in-country consultation process
- Prepare comments for the Delegate on relevant meeting reports, including comments on the proposals for new or revised OIE standards related to Animal Production Food Safety.
Veterinary products

- Establish a network of veterinary products experts within his country or communicate with existing networks;
- Establish a dialogue, cooperation and communication with Competent Authority for veterinary products and relevant authorities;
- Monitor legislation on and control of veterinary products to ensure that these are in support of OIE international standards, guidelines and recommendations;

Veterinary products (2)

- Act as a contact point with the OIE on matters related to veterinary products;
- Receive reports of the VICH activities and copies of the reports of the Biological Standards Commission and other relevant reports and conduct the in-country consultation process;
- Prepare comments for the Delegate on relevant meeting reports, including comments on the proposals for new or revised OIE standards related to Veterinary Products.

Thank you for your attention

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