



# WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

FIFTY-SEVENTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY  
Provisional agenda item 18.1

A57/28  
8 April 2004

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## Agreement with the Office International des Epizooties

### Report by the Secretariat

1. The Office International des Epizooties (OIE) is an intergovernmental organization established in 1924. OIE, which currently has 165 Member Countries, maintains relations with more than 20 international organizations, including WHO.
2. A previous agreement establishing relations between OIE and WHO was approved by resolution WHA14.50 (1961). The agreement was revised in 2003 to take into account a number of recent developments of shared concern. Food safety became a formal area of OIE activity in 2001. The emergence of such zoonotic diseases as bovine spongiform encephalopathy and the related variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, severe acute respiratory syndrome, and avian influenza, has drawn renewed attention to the animal health component of consequential new diseases in humans. These developments have underscored the need for closer collaboration between the two organizations in the surveillance, prevention, and control of zoonotic diseases.
3. A revised agreement reflecting these developments was endorsed by the OIE International Committee at its 71st session in May 2003. By virtue of Article 6, its entry into force is subject to the approval of the Health Assembly.

### ACTION BY THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY

4. The Health Assembly is invited to approve the revised agreement with OIE, attached as Annex.

AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DES EPIZOOTIES (OIE) AND  
THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

The World Health Organization (hereinafter referred to as WHO) and the Office International des Epizooties (hereinafter referred to as the OIE) wishing to co-ordinate their efforts for the promotion and improvement of veterinary public health (VPH) and food security and safety, and to collaborate closely for this purpose

Have agreed to the following:

*Article 1*

- 1.1 WHO and the OIE agree to cooperate closely in matters of common interest pertaining to their respective fields of competence as defined by their respective constitutional instruments and by the decisions of their Governing Bodies.

*Article 2*

- 2.1 WHO shall transmit relevant resolutions of the World Health Assembly and the recommendations of relevant WHO consultations, workshops and other official WHO meetings to OIE for the purpose of circulating them to OIE Member Countries.
- 2.2 The OIE shall transmit the recommendations and resolutions of its International Committee as well as the recommendations of relevant OIE consultations, workshops and other official OIE meetings to WHO for the purpose of circulating them to WHO Member States.
- 2.3 These resolutions and recommendations sent for the consideration of the respective bodies of the two Organizations (hereinafter referred to as the Parties) shall form the basis for coordinated international action between the two Parties.

*Article 3*

- 3.1 Representatives of WHO shall be invited to attend the meetings of the International Committee and Regional Conferences of OIE and to participate without vote in the deliberations of these bodies with respect to items on their agenda in which WHO has an interest.
- 3.2 Representatives of OIE shall be invited to attend the meetings of the Executive Board and of the World Health Assembly and Regional Committees of WHO and to participate without vote in the deliberations of these bodies with respect to items on their agenda in which OIE has an interest.
- 3.3 Appropriate arrangements shall be made by agreement between the Director-General of WHO and the Director-General of OIE for participation of WHO and OIE in other meetings of a non-private character convened under their respective auspices which consider matters in which the other party has an interest; this especially involves those meetings leading to the definition of norms and standards.

- 3.4 The two Parties agree to avoid holding meetings and conferences dealing with matters of mutual interest without prior consultation with the other party.

#### *Article 4*

WHO and OIE shall collaborate in areas of common interest particularly by the following means:

- 4.1. Reciprocal exchange of reports, publications and other information, particularly the timely exchange of information on zoonotic and foodborne disease outbreaks. Special arrangements will be concluded between the two Parties to coordinate the response to outbreaks of zoonotic or/and foodborne diseases of recognized or potential international public health importance.
- 4.2 Organizing on both a regional and a world-wide basis meetings and conferences on zoonoses, food-borne diseases and related issues such as animal feeding practices and anti-microbial resistance related to the prudent use of anti-microbials in animal husbandry and their containment/control policies and programmes .
- 4.3 Joint elaboration, advocacy and technical support to national, regional or global programmes for the control or elimination of major zoonotic and food-borne diseases or emerging/re-emerging issues of common interest.
- 4.4 Promoting and strengthening, especially in developing countries, VPH education, operationalization of VPH and effective co-operation between the public health and animal health/veterinary sectors.
- 4.5 International promotion and coordination of research activities on zoonoses, VPH and food safety.
- 4.6 Promoting and strengthening collaboration between the network of OIE Reference Centres and Laboratories and that of WHO Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories to consolidate their support to WHO Member States and OIE Member Countries on issues of common interest.

#### *Article 5*

- 5.1 WHO and OIE will, in the course of the preparation of their respective programmes of work, exchange their draft programmes for comment.
- 5.2 Each party will take into account the recommendations of the other in preparing its final programme for submission to its governing body.
- 5.3 WHO and OIE will conduct one annual coordinating meeting of high level officials from headquarters and/or regional representation.
- 5.4 The two Parties should devise administrative arrangements necessary to implement these policies, such as the sharing of experts, common organization of joint scientific and technical meetings, joint training of health and veterinary personnel.

*Article 6*

- 6.1 The present Agreement shall enter into force on the date on which it is signed by the Director-General of WHO and the Director-General of the OIE, subject to the approval of the International Committee of the OIE and the World Health Assembly.
- 6.2 This Agreement may be modified by mutual consent expressed in writing. It may also be terminated by either party by giving 6 months' notice in writing to the other party.

*Article 7*

- 7.1 This Agreement supersedes the Agreement between the WHO and OIE adopted by WHO on 4 August 1960 and by the OIE on 8 August 1960.

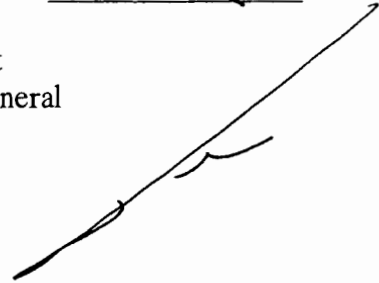
Adopted by WHO on 18 December 2002

and the OIE on 26 Mar 2003

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Dr B. Vallat  
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