

Recommendation

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The Veterinary Authorities (commonly referred as Official Veterinary Services) were originally established to ensure the control and, where possible, eradication, of specific diseases (rinderpest as from the late 19th century and, in the Americas, foot and mouth disease);
2. As emerging issues present a threat to animal, human and environmental health, this initial vision must now be broadened to respond to complex global health, political, sociocultural, technological and diversity-related situations;
3. The Veterinary Services need the necessary financial or human resources to meet these new demands properly. That makes it necessary to innovate and find the best way to tailor animal health and food safety management, at primary production level, to each country's individual circumstances;
4. One of the main missions of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) is the promotion of Veterinary Services to improve their legal framework and resources, with the primary aim of establishing quality Veterinary Services, as defined in the Chapter 3.1 of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* which provides details on the provisions relating to the quality of the Veterinary Services and their fundamental principles of quality;
5. The OIE has a proven record of supporting the strengthening of Veterinary Services and, since the establishment of its flagship programme, the OIE PVS Pathway, it has continued to affirm that for the Veterinary Services to fulfil their mission and generate a global public good, they require sustainable investment;
6. The PVS Pathway missions conducted over the past decade have shown that Veterinary Services are chronically under-resourced in many countries, leading to sub-optimal organisation and staffing of Veterinary Services, thereby jeopardising animal health and welfare nationally, regionally and globally, with consequences on public health;
7. According to the definition of *Veterinary Services* in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, the provision of veterinary services involves a variety of governmental and non-governmental organisations, ranging from the *Veterinary Authority* to authorized private veterinary care providers (veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals or aquatic animal health professionals) and also including various types of private sector organisations;
8. The Veterinary Services, as per defined by the OIE, play a significant role in delivering public good and achieving several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), including: ending poverty, ending hunger and ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all;
9. The private sector, including producers and industry, plays a very important role in partnership with the Veterinary Authority, as it provides them with support to enable them to fulfil their mandate more effectively; and that, in addition;
10. Private veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals can also play a key role in partnership with the Veterinary Authority, either as individuals or working as part of a veterinary service company, or in a production, or supply company;

11. The OIE PVS Evaluation contains a section where countries evaluate performance with respect to their Veterinary Authority's relationship with the private sector;
12. Public-private partnerships (PPPs) and consideration and appreciation of the work of private veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals as well as other private sector partners are an intrinsic part of modern public administration, and that they exist both in the region and across the world, provide an animal health management vision that focuses on improved effectiveness and efficiency (better use of resources) and can be tailored to countries' individual circumstances;
13. Countries in the region are interested in strengthening collaboration between the public and private sectors, including through PPPs, as demonstrated by the high number of responses from the region to a global survey conducted by the OIE in 2017 and also by the adoption of Resolution no. 39 regarding "*Public-Private Partnerships: expectations of private sector partners for international animal health and livestock sector development programmes and the implications for the OIE*" by the OIE Members at the 85th General Session in May 2017;
14. In several countries in the region, public-private interaction has been key in implementing disease prevention, control, and eradication programmes and achieving countries' current animal health status;
15. Collaboration with the private sector on matters relating to the Veterinary Authority may differ in nature, scope and outreach. It may cover animal health, animal welfare, food safety at primary production level, trade or related areas. It may be established for one or more species, one or more diseases or hazards of interest to public health, or one or more territories within a country;
16. The analysis of the answers⁶⁴ from countries in the region to a global survey conducted by the OIE in 2017 as part of its *Public-Private Progress* initiative, highlights that:
 - the principal reason for most countries in the region to establish PPPs in the first place was to control or eradicate foot and mouth disease. However, in recent years, PPP initiatives have increasingly been established in other areas, such as poultry and swine health, and bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis control;
 - most PPP initiatives identified in the region were largely driven by the private sector, with a focus on exports;
 - the experience was assessed as good to excellent in terms of impact, although no mention was made of it having been subject to a formal evaluation;
 - most of the PPP proposals have been on-going for several years and aspired to become permanent, demonstrating their sustainability.
17. The OIE has done a large amount of work over the past months to design a better tailored PVS Pathway more aligned with the national and regional needs;
18. The OIE is in favour of the development of impactful PPPs in the veterinary domain in order to strengthen national Veterinary Services in a sustainable manner.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE Delegates raise the awareness of decision makers about the key role played by the Veterinary Services and the importance of providing them with sufficient financial and human resources to guarantee that their performance is sound (in compliance with OIE standards) and sustainable;

⁶⁴ Analysis done by the author of the Technical Item 1 to complete the work done to developing his report.

2. Members support the OIE work in advocating to resource partners to invest in the OIE PVS Pathway;

THAT THE VETERINARY AUTHORITIES OF THE MEMBERS:

3. Work to build their capacity, including the application of concepts of economics of animal health, enabling them to prioritise activities according to their economic and social impact, and to design efficient intervention strategies that help them to identify sources of public and private funding;
4. Consider the participation of veterinarians or veterinary paraprofessionals in activities deemed relevant by the Veterinary Authority in order to generate greater benefits;
5. Consider the principles of economics to define and share responsibilities between the public and private sectors, as well as financing and delivery mechanisms;
6. Support the establishment of impactful and sustainable PPPs in the veterinary domain, based on the guidelines for PPPs to be developed by the OIE in 2019 for use by both the public and private sectors, while always complying with the responsibilities of the Veterinary Authority;
7. Establish formal, representative and ongoing platform of dialogue with private sector organisations, including veterinary associations and veterinary paraprofessionals, producer associations and private companies, to define a strategy of collaboration with the private sector, including PPP initiatives, that is geared to the challenges faced and the situation in each country;

AND THAT THE OIE

8. Help Delegates, via the development of advocacy material, to sensitize decision makers on the value of sustainable Veterinary Services and the potential benefits of collaborating with the private sector to improve the quality and sustainability of their activities;
9. Lead a practical training programme for its Members for the development and implementation of sustainable PPPs, using the guidelines under development by the OIE;
10. Maintain an up-to-date database, containing PPP experiences, in a format that makes it easy to disseminate to serve as a motivation for other countries;
11. Support the development of methodologies and tools for the technical and socioeconomic evaluation of collaborative initiatives with the private sector, to complement the guidelines for PPPs to be published in 2019; and
12. Support, together with the Veterinary Authorities, the development and implementation of new technologies either through PPPs or through agreements with private providers, universities and technology centres, all with the aim of strengthening the Veterinary Services.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 23 November 2018
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2019)