

Document: EB 2019/127/R.44  
Agenda: 12(b)  
Date: 13 August 2019  
Distribution: Public  
Original: English

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Investing in rural people

## Invitation of Observers to Sessions of the Governing Council

World Organisation for Animal Health

### Note to Executive Board representatives

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Executive Board — 127<sup>th</sup> Session  
Rome, 10-12 September 2019

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For: Approval

## Recommendation for approval

The Executive Board is invited to approve the recommendation for the invitation of the World Organisation for Animal Health, which meets the criteria set out in paragraphs 8 and 9 of document EB 87/31/R.57, as observer to sessions of the Governing Council.

### I. Background

1. Observers are invited to attend IFAD Governing Council sessions in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement Establishing IFAD and various Governing Council and Executive Board rules and decisions, in particular those set out in document EB 87/31/R.57.
2. The Executive Board accepted that invitations to sessions of the Governing Council should be extended to entities concerned with promoting agricultural development in the developing Member States of IFAD and whose presence at Governing Council sessions could help achieve the realization of IFAD's objectives. The Executive Board decided that these entities should be of potential assistance in accomplishing IFAD's purposes by: (a) cofinancing projects or programmes with IFAD; or (b) providing direct support to IFAD's operations and activities. In this connection, IFAD has received an application for observer status at Governing Council sessions from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). Information on the organization is provided in the annex.

### II. Recommendation

3. Whereas OIE meets the criteria established by the Executive Board, as stipulated in paragraphs 8 and 9 of document EB 87/31/R.57 and as OIE's mission is to ensure transparency in the global animal disease situation; collect, analyse, and disseminate veterinary scientific information; encourage international solidarity in the control of animal diseases; safeguard world trade by publishing health standards for international trade in animals and animal products; improve the legal framework and resources of national veterinary services; provide better guarantees for food of animal origin; and promote animal welfare through a science-based approach, it is therefore proposed that the Executive Board authorize the President to invite the above-mentioned organization to attend the forty-third session and future sessions of the Governing Council as observer.

# World Organisation for Animal Health

## I. Introduction

1. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) is an intergovernmental organization responsible for coordinating, supporting and improving animal health worldwide. OIE was officially established in 1924, following an outbreak of rinderpest in Belgium which had devastating economic and food security consequences. On 25 January 1924, 28 countries established, under an international agreement, the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) based in Paris. In May 2003, the office was renamed World Organisation for Animal Health, but kept its original acronym.

## A. Mission

2. The mission of OIE is to ensure transparency in the global animal disease situation; collect, analyse, and disseminate veterinary scientific information; encourage international solidarity in the control of animal diseases; safeguard world trade by publishing health standards for international trade in animals and animal products; improve the legal frameworks and resources of national veterinary services; provide better guarantees for food of animal origin; and promote animal welfare through a science-based approach. The adopted standards are recognized under the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

## B. Activities and objectives

3. OIE's work is based on the following strategic objectives:
  - **Transparency.** OIE ensures transparency in the global animal disease situation. Each OIE member country undertakes an assessment and reports to OIE the animal diseases that it detects in its country. OIE then disseminates the information to other countries, which can take the necessary preventive action. This information also relates to diseases transmissible to humans and the intentional introduction of pathogens. Information is sent out immediately or periodically depending on the seriousness of the disease. This strategic objective applies to disease manifestations both naturally occurring and deliberately caused. Information is disseminated via e-mail, through the Disease Information tool and the World Animal Health Information System interface.
  - **Scientific information.** OIE collects and analyses the latest scientific information on animal disease control. This information is then made available to the OIE member countries to help them improve the methods used to control and eradicate these diseases. Guidelines are prepared by the network of 246 OIE collaborating centres and reference laboratories throughout the world. Scientific information is also disseminated through various journals and periodicals published by the OIE, notably the Scientific and Technical Review (three issues per year).
  - **International solidarity.** OIE provides technical support to its member countries requesting assistance with animal disease control and eradication operations, including animal diseases transmissible to humans. Notably, OIE offers expertise to the poorest countries (eligible for official development assistance) to help them control animal diseases that cause livestock losses, present a risk to public health and threaten other member countries. By protecting livestock in developing countries, OIE aims to promote food and nutrition security, strengthen resilience, protect livelihoods and contribute to poverty alleviation. Consequently, OIE contributes to the work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. OIE has also continuous

contact with international, regional and national financial institutions to advocate for greater investment animal disease control.

- Sanitary safety. OIE aims to safeguard world trade by publishing health standards for international trade in animals and products. OIE develops international standards and normative documents relating to rules that OIE member countries can use to protect themselves from the introduction of diseases and pathogens, without setting up unjustified sanitary barriers to trade. The main normative works produced by the OIE are the: Terrestrial Animal Health Code; Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals; Aquatic Animal Health Code; and Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals.
- Promotion of veterinary services. The veterinary services and laboratories of developing and transition countries are in urgent need of support in the form of infrastructure, resources and capacity that will enable their countries to benefit more fully from the WTO-SPS agreement while at the same time protecting animal health and public health and reducing the threat for other countries that are free of diseases. OIE considers veterinary services as a global public good, and believes that ensuring their alignment with international standards should be a public investment priority.
- Food safety and animal welfare. OIE member countries have decided to provide a better guarantee of the safety of food of animal origin by creating greater synergy between the activities of the OIE and those of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. OIE's standard-setting activities in this field focus on eliminating potential hazards existing prior to the slaughter of animals or the primary processing of their products (meat, milk, eggs, etc.) that could be a source of risk for consumers. Since its creation, OIE has played a key role as the sole international reference organization for animal health, enjoying international recognition and benefiting from direct collaboration with the veterinary services of all its member countries. As a mark of the close relationship between animal health and animal welfare, OIE has become, at the request of its member countries, the leading international organization for animal welfare.

### C. Membership and governance

4. OIE has 182 member countries represented by the government ministries in charge of veterinary authorities.

#### Structure

5. It is an intergovernmental organization and placed under the authority and control of the World Assembly of Delegates, which is the supreme governing body, consisting of delegates designated by the governments of member countries. A meeting is held at least once a year. The structure is as follows: the secretariat, the council and regional commissions.
  - Secretariat. The day-to-day operation of the OIE is managed at its headquarters in Paris and by its regional and subregional offices. It operates under the responsibility of the Director General elected by the Assembly (five-year mandate, renewable). OIE implements the resolutions passed by the Assembly and developed with the support of commissions elected by the delegates.
  - Council. The council is composed of the president of the Assembly, the vice-president, the past president, and six delegates representing all the regions, all elected (with the exception of the former president) for a three-year term. The council represents the Assembly during the interval between the general sessions. The council meets at least twice a year in Paris to examine technical

and administrative matters and, in particular, the working programme and the proposed budget to be presented to the Assembly.

- Regional commissions. OIE has set up five regional commissions to address specific problems facing its members in the different regions of the world. These commissions can be seen as fully fledged regional institutional bodies, covering: Africa; the Americas; Asia, Far East and Oceania; Europe; and the Middle East. Regional commissions report on their activities and submit recommendations to the World Assembly of Delegates.

#### Regions of operation

6. OIE is active in: Africa; the Americas; Asia, Far East and Oceania; Europe; and the Middle East.

#### Funding

7. OIE is financed through statutory contributions, voluntary contributions and other sources. The core regular budget of the organization for 2020 is EUR 15.5 million. The consolidated statement of financial performance for 2018 amounts to EUR 30.1 million in operating income, and EUR 29.6 million in operating expenses. This includes EUR 6.1 million spent through the 12 regional and subregional representations of the OIE worldwide, in addition to the operations of the regular budget and includes activities funded through the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, a pluriannual multi-donor trust fund to collect voluntary contributions. With regard to the latter, in 2018, EUR 24.1 million of pluriannual income was received and cumulative income (2006-2018) totalled EUR 161.5 million. In 2018, OIE World Fund's expenses amounted to EUR 20.9 million.

#### Relationships with IFAD and other international organizations

8. Meetings have already been held between OIE and IFAD, especially during the last two Governing Council sessions. On 29 November 2018, IFAD and OIE signed a letter of intent based on the areas of collaboration that the two organizations wish to explore, including effective prevention and progressive control of major animal diseases, and promotion of the collection and analysis of information related to livestock, particularly in developing countries.
9. Ms Charlotte Salford, Associate Vice-President, External Relations and Governance Department, was invited to deliver a keynote speech at the opening of OIE's general session of the World Assembly of Delegates in May 2019.

#### Location

10. OIE has its headquarters in Paris, with regional offices in Mali, Argentina, Japan, the Russian Federation and Lebanon and subregional offices in Botswana, Tunisia, Kenya, Panama, Thailand, Belgium and Kazakhstan.

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