The view of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) in support of the Biological Weapons Convention

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Deputy Director General

Meeting of Experts: Biological Weapons Convention
(Geneva, 18 - 22 August 2008)
World Organization for Animal Health (1924)
172 Member Countries (2008)

- Five permanent Regional Representations: Bamako, Buenos Aires, Tokyo, Sofia and Beirut
- Two Sub-regional Offices: Bangkok, Gaborone
- Five Regional Commissions: Africa, America, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Middle East
Why are OIE and FAO worried about the prevention and control of major animal diseases threats, biosecurity risks and zoonosis - including agroterrorism?
Zoonotic potential of animal pathogens

- 60% of human pathogens are zoonotic
- 80% of animal pathogens are multi-host
- 75% of emerging diseases are zoonotic
- 80% of agents having a potential bioterrorist use are zoonotic pathogens
- Nearly all new human diseases originate from animal reservoirs
- Diseases can now spread faster across the world than the average incubation period of most diseases
Our ENEMIES
Annual Global Trade in Exotic Animals

- 4 million birds
- 640,000 reptiles
- 40,000 primates
- Illegal trade unknown – estimate $4-6 billion
Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases
Factors of emergence and re-emergence

- International travel and commerce: 77%
- Globalization of agriculture and trade: 70%
- Microbial adaptation: 66%
- Climate and weather: 57%
- Changing ecosystems: 49%
- Changing host susceptibility: 43%
- Poverty: 38%
- Economic development: 32%
- Technology: 20%
- Intent to harm: 18%
Evolution of the OIE mandate

Historical: ‘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 around the world’
Underlying approach is to control/prevent the disease/threat at the animal source.
OIE methodology for the evaluation of the performance of veterinary services – including biosecurity applications in field and veterinary laboratories
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OIE and the BWC

- OIE in support of BWC
- Global surveillance and preparedness
- Inclusion of non-domestic animals (wild animals)
- Animal diseases including zoonosis
- Adherence to international animal health standards
- Good veterinary governance
OIE Reference Laboratories

>200 RLs and CC’s
Acceleration due to the Avian Influenza Crisis
Early Warning

- Disease Alerts
- Trends analysis
- Forecasting
- Modeling
- Prediction
International standards, guidelines and recommendations

- Terrestrial Animal Health Code
- Aquatic Animal Health Code
- Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals
- Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals
Biosecurity and biosafety

- International standards for veterinary laboratories, vaccines, biocontainment
- Together with FAO biosecurity guidelines for disease containment and introduction prevention
- Expert group established in biotechnology to assess biosecurity risks on biotechnology for animal health
- Expanded to biosecurity risks in food processing establishments (abattoirs)
The OIE provides Standards for containment facilities, procedures for safely handling infectious agents and guidelines for securing high risk pathogens
Terrestrial Animal Health Code provides:

- Procedures for assessing the risk of infectious agents and criteria for grouping the agents into one of four risk groups
- Details of the facility requirements for four containment levels
- Facility standards to prevent the release of the agents into the environment and protect the laboratory workers
Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals provides:

- the biosafety procedures to minimise the risk of infection of laboratory workers. It provides additions precautions for risk group 2, 3, and 4 agents.
Biosecurity - Import control

- **Biosecurity** involves the management of biological risks in a comprehensive manner to protect animal and plant life, health and protect the environment
- Prevent introduction of alien or undesirable species
- Import of biological material usually requires an import permit
Risk convergence model

Convergence Model (Microbial Threats to Health – IOM/NAS, 2003)
4 components of import risk analysis

(Section 1.3 of the Code)
Ensuring good governance to address emerging and re-emerging animal disease, biosecurity risk and bio-terrorist threats
Thank you very much!

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