

RESOLUTION No. 31

**Animal Welfare**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The mandate of the OIE includes the improvement of terrestrial and aquatic animal health and welfare worldwide, health being a key component of animal welfare,
2. Animal welfare is a complex, multi-faceted, international and domestic public policy issue, with important scientific, ethical, economic, cultural, and political and trade policy dimensions,
3. The Director General will establish the OIE Global Animal Welfare Forum, through which the OIE will continue to develop relevant animal welfare issues and priorities in consultation with scientists, industry, and civil society,
4. Additional work is underway on the development of animal welfare standards for pig, layer hen production systems and the killing methods for reptiles commercially processed for their skins and meat,
5. Guidelines on disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health and welfare and veterinary public health have been published on the OIE website,
6. Regional animal welfare strategies, animal welfare platforms and associated implementation plans, can make an important contribution to the OIE mandate of improving animal health and welfare worldwide,
7. Successful Global Conferences on Animal Welfare were held in 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016 confirming the OIE's international leadership role in animal welfare.

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE adopt and implement an OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy as developed in document 85 SG/14.
2. Within the framework of OIE agreed Global and Regional strategies and implementation plans, OIE Members play an active role in their regions with institutions, non-governmental organisations, the private sector and other international organisations in promoting the OIE animal welfare mandate.
3. Veterinary Services of each Member Country continue to take steps to implement OIE animal welfare standards, including, as appropriate, those that will strengthen their regulatory frameworks for animal welfare.
4. Veterinary Services of each Member Country take steps to engage with governmental and non-governmental organisations to implement the guidelines on disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health and welfare and veterinary public health including, as appropriate, consider the possible need to strengthen their relevant regulatory frameworks, and improve their capacity to respond to any kind of disaster.

5. The OIE Regional Commissions and their respective Member Countries continue to support the OIE animal welfare mandate through the development and implementation of Regional Animal Welfare Strategies and Animal Welfare Platforms.
  6. The OIE encourage OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres to explore opportunities for collaborative and partnership projects in support of the animal welfare programme in Member Countries and in their Regions, including through twinning projects.
  7. The OIE identify additional institutions that could be recognised as OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres to be assessed according to the criteria agreed by the OIE Council.
  8. The OIE continues to monitor the “Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare” and its recognition of OIE’s international leadership role in setting animal welfare standards.
  9. The Director General continue to take steps to promote the inclusion of animal welfare in veterinary teaching curricula and in continuing education programmes.
  10. The Director General continue to organise seminars for national animal welfare focal points designated by Delegates,
  11. The Director General takes the necessary steps to follow up on recommendations of the 4th OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare, held in Mexico, in December 2016.
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 23 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2017)