

### ***Terms of Reference for the OIE National Focal Point on Animal Production Food Safety***

During the 76<sup>th</sup> General Session of the World Assembly of National Delegates in May 2008 the importance of the focal point for information on animal diseases was re-iterated and Delegates were also requested to nominate additional focal points for wildlife, veterinary products, animal production food safety, animal welfare and aquatic animals.

As detailed in the final report of the General Session, the responsibilities of the focal points are under the authority of the OIE Delegate. Any information transmitted to the OIE from the different focal points needs to be transmitted under the designated authority of the OIE Delegate. This practice would equally apply, if focal points are located in other Departments or Ministries not under jurisdiction of the Veterinary Authority, as from a legal perspective, the OIE considers the official OIE Delegate to be the unique representative of the country.

#### ***Details on proposed tasks of the national focal point for animal production food safety.***

1. to establish a network of animal production food safety experts within his country or to communicate with the existing network;
2. to establish and maintain a dialogue with the Competent Authority for animal production food safety in his country, and to facilitate cooperation and communication among several authorities where responsibility is shared;
3. to receive from the OIE Headquarters copies of the reports of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission), including reports of the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, and other relevant reports;
4. to conduct the in-country consultation process with recognised animal production food safety experts on draft texts proposed in those reports as well as draft standards proposed by the Code Commission when dealing with animal production food safety issues; and
5. to prepare comments for the Delegate on each of the relevant meeting reports reflecting the scientific view and position of the individual OIE Member and/or the region, including comments on the proposals for new or revised OIE standards related to animal production food safety, taking into account when relevant their compliance with *Codex Alimentarius* existing standards.