



## Tenth Meeting of the Global Steering Committee of the GF-TADs (GSC10)

Rome, Italy (FAO HQs), 13-14 November 2018

### REPORT

#### Summary

The tenth meeting of the Global Steering Committee of the GF-TADs (GSC10) was held at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy, on 13-14 November 2018. The meeting was co-organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). The meeting was opened by FAO Assistant Director-General, Dr Bukar Tijani and co-chaired by FAO Director of Animal Health and Production, Dr Berhe Tekola and OIE Director-General, Dr Monique Eloit. The main objective of GSC10 was to discuss the outcomes of the Joint FAO-OIE Evaluation of the Global Framework for Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) and agree on an Action Plan in response to the recommendations of the evaluation.

The GF-TADs Global Secretariat presented an overview of current activities, and the progress made since the ninth Global Steering Committee of the GF-TADs (GSC9) that was held in Paris, France, on 8-9 November 2016. The meeting agenda accommodated also sessions to report on the Global PPR Eradication Programme, the Global Strategy for FMD control, the Rinderpest post-eradication programme, and on the current situation of African swine fever. Sufficient time was dedicated to discussion of the outcomes of the Joint FAO-OIE Evaluation of the GF-TADs, and presentation of the draft Action Plan developed by the Management Committee in response to the recommendations of the report. The Action Plan was thoroughly discussed in the afternoon of the first day of the meeting through a 'world-café style' workshop. The meeting concluded with the approval by the GSC10 of some Recommendations and the proposed Action Plan with few modifications and minor revisions proposed by the participants. The meeting closed with concluding remarks by the co-chairs. .

## Participants

The meeting was attended by a total of 38 representatives from FAO, OIE, Presidents and Secretariats of the 5 Regional Steering Committees, donors, WHO, and EuFMD. See the attached list of participants.

## Minutes

Following the opening address, Dr Monique Eloit chaired the first day's meeting introducing the speakers.

### **Activity report from the GF-TADs Global Secretariat**

The Coordinator of the GF-TADs Global Secretariat, Dr Piergiuseppe Facelli gave an overview of activities and the progress made since the last Global Steering Committee meeting that was held in Paris, France, on 08-09 November 2016 (GSC9). See attached presentation.

### **Activity report on Progress on the Global Strategy to Control and Eradicate PPR**

The Secretary of the FAO/OIE PPR Secretariat, Dr Bouna Diop, provided updates on the current PPR situation, an outline of the PPR Global Eradication Programme (GEP) and its governance, and information on the outcomes of the PPR Global Conference held in September 2018 in Brussels. See attached presentation.

During the discussion, it was agreed that the PPR Global Conference has given the PPR GEP "new momentum". It was underlined that over 60% of the targeted resources for the 5-year PPR GEP has already been mobilized, but USD 340 million are still needed. There is need for discussion on socio-economic factors taking into consideration the presentation made by FAO (A. Acosta) during the Brussels conference. There were several inputs on the challenges of PPR GEP activities in countries and regions affected by conflicts. A success story could be mentioned in this regard is Somalia – where there was a large PPR vaccination campaign implemented in 2010-2013. PPR Eradication should be a regional approach, not a country approach.

### **Progress on the Global Strategy for the control of FMD**

An update on Global FMD Control Strategy was provided by Dr Samia Metwally. See the attached presentation.

During the discussion, it was highlighted that the Progressive Control Pathway for FMD is the 'backbone' of the Global FMD control strategy. The FMD Working Group is working closely with

EuFMD. Whilst some funding for Global FMD strategy is provided by EuFMD and AU-IBAR there is still insufficient funding to make a bigger leap. There is also potential for coordination with PPR to mutualise resources.

### **Progress on Rinderpest post eradication**

Dr Samia Metwally outlined the priorities and challenges that are required to maintain freedom, the progress made to date and the activities that are planned for 2019 and beyond. See the attached presentation.

### **Activity report on African swine fever**

Dr Neo Joel Mapitse provided an update on the current situation of African swine fever (ASF). See the attached presentation.

During discussion there was a focus on ASF situation in Europe where the increased number of outbreaks of the disease in wild boar were most likely due to the fact that the laboratory testing of carcasses was compulsory. The President of the RSC of the GF-TADs for Europe underlined the importance and value of the creation of the Standing Group of Experts in helping the coordination of the control efforts. The absence of effective vaccines against ASF virus was also discussed. Academic teams are working on developing vaccines but it is too early stage to rely on this as a tool to control the disease.

### **Joint FAO-OIE Evaluation of the GF-TADs**

A presentation of the Joint FAO-OIE Evaluation of the GF-TADs was provided by Dr Marta Bruno (FAO-OED), Dr Maroussia Clavel (FAO-OED) and Dr Maame Duah (OIE PCMC). See attached presentation.

The Evaluation questions and methodology was presented to the GSC. The overarching conclusions that emerged are that GF-TADs is a platform with unique features – and there are no comparable global platforms for animal health. However, it was highlighted that there is limited strategic and financial commitment from parent organisations and strategic and coordinated advocacy and outreach is lacking. In summary, the recommendations of the evaluation proposes that 1) FAO and OIE reconfirm and strengthen their commitment to the GF-TADs; 2) GSC and RSCs review membership, processes and activities to take leadership and responsibility to ensure impact in all regions and coherence and synergies at global level and; 3) Secretariats be strengthened to assure responsiveness, effective operation, improved communication and implementation of the action plans.

## **Presentation on the draft GF-TADs Action Plan**

Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, OIE Deputy Director General, presented the Action Plan prepared by the Management Committee to address the recommendations made in the Joint FAO-OIE Evaluation. See attached presentation.

### **Focus on the Action Plan**

During the the 'world-café style' workshop, the participants had an opportunity to discuss the three recommendations of the 'Joint FAO-OIE evaluation of the GF-TADs' and related proposed actions.

With regard to the request to include rabies among the diseases subject to coordination at the global level, FAO and OIE suggested to consider what is suggested by the MC in the action plan recalling that rabies is being considered as priority disease by the FAO-OIE-WHO Tripartite recently reconfirmed with the signature of a memorandum of understanding. This does not mean that this zoonosis, and other like Rift Valley Fever, cannot be the subject of activity, if required, by the regions.

On the proposal to include REMESA, which involves three Regions (Europe, Africa and Middle East), among the activities of the global GF-TADs, the response from the Chairs has been that this may perhaps be taken into consideration in the future, but that at the present time Global GF-TADs must focus on core activities (PPR, FMD and RP post-eradication).

In relation to governance, the request to know whether the GF-TADs should also deal with advocacy and resources mobilization, the Chairs clarified that the GF-TADs is a coordination platform and advocacy and resource mobilization can be done through FAO and OIE respective mechanisms .

With regard to the list of TADs to be dealt with at Regional level there has to be flexibility. Diseases can be prioritized using the FAO/OIE sequential 'Prioritization tool' and taking into consideration recommendations from the CVOs (OIE Delegates) during the OIE regional conferences.

Satisfaction was expressed by both the OIE and FAO Chairs about the positive outcomes of discussions with AU-IBAR regarding revitalizing GF-TADs in Africa where AU-IBAR will be supported in taking over the role of the presidency of RSC for Africa.

## Closing remarks & future steps

At the end of the discussion, the Chairs underlined that the outcomes and recommendations of the 'Joint FAO-OIE evaluation of the GF-TADs' provide an opportunity to confirm and reaffirm commitment for the GF-TADs mechanism.

The OIE's co-Chair informed about the OIE's intention to send a formal proposal to FAO in order to strengthen and relocate the GF-TADs Global Secretariat in Paris. On the topic of funding and human resources, OIE is ready to allocate three full-time positions (1 regular budget and 2 program budget) to the Global Secretariat. In terms of the Regional Secretariat's, there could be a greater level of flexibility. The FAO co-Chair shared the opinion that there is need to strengthen GF-TADs at global and regional level, and expressed the necessity to discuss OIE's formal proposal at FAO's higher level, while highlighting that FAO is also looking into possibilities to strengthen and sustain the Global Secretariat activities in FAO.

NB: all presentations of the GF-TADs GSC10 are available on the webpage of the GF-TADs Global at <http://www.gf-tads.org/events/en/>