HARMONISATION OF NATIONAL ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE SURVEILLANCE AND MONITORING PROGRAMMES

Antimicrobial resistance

a) Report of the ad hoc Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (January 2017)

OIE Headquarters presented the report of the ad hoc Group on Antimicrobial Resistance which met in January 2017. The Code Commission thanked OIE Headquarters for providing an update on this important work and noted that in addition to reviewing Member Countries comments on Chapter 6.7., the ad hoc Group had also proposed amendments to Chapter 6.8., which was not currently on the Code Commission’s work programme.

The Code Commission took note of the advancement of the collection of data for the 2016 annual report and the revised definition proposed for ‘therapeutic use’ and of new definitions proposed for ‘preventative use’ and ‘growth promotion’ that were intended to be included in Chapter 6.8. of the Terrestrial Code. It also noted that the definition of ‘growth promotion’ was in line with the definition used by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Member Countries’ are invited to comment on the following definitions as proposed by the ad hoc Group:

**Therapeutic use:** Administration of an antimicrobial agent to animals to prevent, control or treat infection or disease. The Veterinary Medicinal Products (VMP) containing antimicrobial agents should only be used on the prescription of a veterinarian or other suitably trained person authorised to prescribe VMP containing antimicrobial agents in accordance with national legislation and under the supervision of a veterinarian.

**Preventative use:** Administration of an antimicrobial agent targeted to animals at risk for a specific infection(s) or in a specific situation where disease is likely to occur if the drug is not administered, with an appropriate dose and for a limited duration. The Veterinary Medicinal Products (VMP) containing antimicrobial agents should only be used on the prescription of a veterinarian or other suitably trained person authorised to prescribe VMP containing antimicrobial agents in accordance with national legislation and under the supervision of a veterinarian.

**Growth promotion:** Use of antimicrobial substances to increase the rate of weight gain and/or the efficiency of feed utilization in animals by other than purely nutritional means. The term does NOT apply to the use of antimicrobial agents for the specific purpose of treating, controlling, or preventing infectious diseases, even when an incidental growth response may be obtained. This definition is in line with the definition developed by Codex Alimentarius in CAC/RCP 61-2005.