Annex 11

DRAFT CHAPTER 3.X.
 **INTRODUCTION TO RECOMMENDATIONS
ON VETERINARY SERVICES**

Article 3.X.1.

*Veterinary Services* are critical to global and national health security, food security and food safety, agricultural and rural development, poverty alleviation, safe national and *international trade*, *wildlife* health and environmental protection; as such they are considered a global public good. To achieve these goals, *Veterinary Services* require good governance, including effective policy and management, personnel and resources, veterinary professionals and interaction with stakeholders in a One Health approach.

Member Countries have the sovereign right to structure and manage the delivery of animal health, *animal* *welfare* and veterinary public health in the veterinary domain in their countries as they ~~see fit~~consider appropriate. The veterinary domain covers a broad scope of possible activities. Section 3 focuses on aspects of the *Veterinary Services* that enable the OIE standards to be met even when under the responsibility of one or more *Competent Authorities.*

Member Countries should implement the OIE standards across their whole territory and should meet their obligations at the international level through representation by their respective OIE Delegate. The *Veterinary Authority,* including the OIE Delegate,should coordinate with other *Competent Authorities* to ensure that international standards and responsibilities are met.

*Veterinary Services* have responsibility for implementing the activities necessary for the Member Country to comply with OIE standards. These activities can be delivered by a combination of individuals or organisations, public or private, that are responsible to one or more *Competent Authorities*. *Veterinary Services* also include the personnel of the *Competent Authorities* themselves. The term *Veterinary Services* refers to the combination of a number of separate actors, with different organisational affiliations.

Section 3 provides standards to assist the *Veterinary Services* of Member Countries in meeting their objectives of improving terrestrial animal health ~~and~~, *animal* *welfare* and veterinary public health, as well as ~~to~~ in establishing and maintaining confidence in their *international veterinary certificates*.

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