



REPORT OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING
OF THE
7TH REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE GF-TADS FOR THE MIDDLE EAST
5th of October 2020

The virtual meeting of the 7th Regional steering committee of the GF-Tads for the Middle East was held on the 5th of October 2020, hosted by the GF TADs regional secretariat, and attended by 25 participants, including delegates from 10 Member Countries and observers representatives from 4 international and regional organisations.

The OIE delegates from Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates attended the meeting, the OIE delegates from Cyprus, Oman, Turkey, Syria and Yemen were absent.

The international and regional organisations were represented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, WHO-EMRO, European Commission and Arab Organization for Agricultural Development.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Elias Ibrahim, President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East assisted by Dr Ghazi Yehia OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East and the GF-TADs Regional Secretariat.

The Chairman welcomed the participants, observers and representatives of international and regional organisations, and gave the floor respectively to FAO and OIE Headquarters for brief addresses.

Dr Keith Sumption, FAO Chief Veterinary Officer, and Dr Jean Philippe Dop, OIE Deputy Director General, welcomed the meeting's participants. Dr Keith Sumption particularly highlighted the relevance of the GF-TADs coordination mechanism in the current context., Dr Jean Philippe Dop underlined that the meeting was supposed to take place physically in the margin of G20 Agriculture conference in Riyadh and it is a pity it had to be cancel but congratulation for the

participants and organisers to hold it as a virtual meeting and to maintain the ambition to reactivate the regional GF-TADs for Middle East.

After the above welcome addresses, the agenda, described in the Appendix was adopted.

Dr. HendrikJan Ormel, and Dr. Alexandre Fediaevsky from the GF-TADs Global Secretariat, noted that it is very important to keep momentum on GF-TADs in the current context of global sanitary crisis control of TADs as part of one health: food security, economic growth and addressing capacity of national and regional systems to address contagious disease contribute to have resilient of health system.

They also noted that the GF-TADs at global and regional levels is working on its new vision and in one month a global steering committee meeting will be the occasion to start developing a revised global strategies for the GF-TADs, and all regions are expected to contribute actively.

The Chairman gave the floor to the FAO and OIE regional offices.

Dr Friederike Mayen, FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa highlighted that the FAO Regional Office in Cairo, its Sub-regional Offices in Abu Dhabi and Tunis and Country Offices assist countries in strengthening of Veterinary Services in detection, surveillance and diagnosis of animal diseases and in harmonizing disease control with GF-TADs. FAO provides tools and strategies for disease surveillance, risk assessment, laboratory diagnostics, biosecurity, emergency preparedness and contingency plans. Examples in disease control and eradication assistance are for example the Regional Technical Cooperation Project on TADs with AOAD, Global PPR eradication campaign, FMD-Progressive Control Pathway, HPAI, Lumpy Skin disease control in Lebanon, PPR control in Syria, RVF control in Sudan and Mauritania. EMPRES-I, the global animal disease information system and GLEWS, the Global Early Warning System are also being used. Close collaboration with OIE is of major importance in all described activities.

Alexandre Fediaevsky introduced the agenda item on the terms of reference. Based on the recommendations from the previous global steering committee, the terms of reference of the GF-TADs governing bodies are being revised. In this perspective, the regional secretariat circulated revised terms of reference for the regional steering committee and GF-TADs regional secretariat, based on the generic proposal of terms of reference proposed by from the GF-TADs global secretariat. He indicated that following constitution of the members of the regional steering committee and nomination of the chair, members will have opportunity to provide written comments on the proposal.

Dr Ibrahim Al Qasim, CVO of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and member of the GCC Animal Health commission previously communicated his interest in chairing the GF-TADs regional steering committee for the Middle East. No other candidature was received. The OIE delegates for the region proceeded with the vote in favor or against the candidature of Dr Ibrahim Al Qasim who

was elected with absolute majority. Participants congratulated Dr Ibrahim Al Qasim wished him success for the future activities of the GF-TADs in the region.

According to the elections and the terms of reference, the board of the GF TADs steering committee is there for the following:

The GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for the Middle East is composed by the following members:

A Chairman: Dr Ibrahim Al Qasim.

The 4 Members of the Bureau of OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East:

Dr Elias Ibrahim, Dr Fajer El Salloom, Dr Sanad Al Harbi and Dr Rachel Dodeen.

1 Representative of OIE Headquarters (OIE Paris) without vote.

1 Representative of FAO Headquarters (FAO Rome) without vote.

1 FAO Regional Representative for the region(s) without vote.

1 Representative of WHO-EMRO without vote.

1 Representatives of RECs: AU-IBAR, EU, GCC, USDA-APHIS.

1 Representative from GCC Animal health commission.

1 Representatives of RSOs: AOAD, EUFMD.

Representatives of Specific Donors without vote: IsDB, KFAED, AG-Fund, BADEA, AAAID.

Representatives of the RSUs identified as actor of the action plan - without vote.

Representatives from the FAO and OIE sub regional representations in Abu Dhabi.

The OIE regional representation in the Middle East as the regional secretariat.

Dr Al Qasim introduced himself and thanked the members for his election and committed himself to achieve the maximum possible of the designed work plan. He said that only by joining efforts we can pave the way toward facing challenges and achieving success.

Dr Al Qasim asked the Global Secretariat to comment on “the methods in developing and adopting a new regional strategy”,

Dr Ormel and Dr Fediavesky, highlighted that a new strategy should be interactive process between regional and global and consider the main pillars of the Global one based on:

Pillar I: Members agree on priority TADs, strategic approaches and needs.

Pillar II: Members benefit from coordinated support to implement TADs control strategies.

Pillar III: Members own the strategy, follow progresses, and receive feedback.

The three pillars will be reflected in governing bodies, in disease specific strategies at global and regional levels and in any cross-cutting strategies and actions on emerging diseases.

Then Dr. Yehia presented a summary of the Regional Action Plan 20-24 with the overall objective on:

Investing in the good governance of VS and in prevention measures;

Tackling diseases at the animal source;

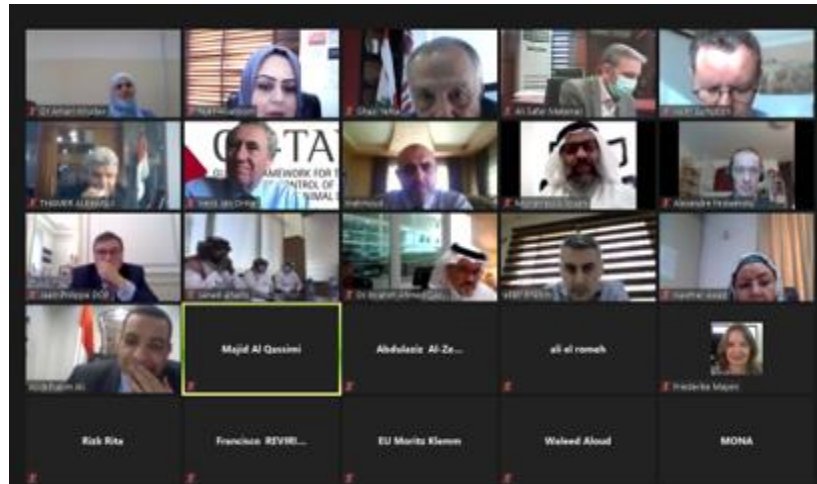
Appropriate national and international collaboration between the Animal and Human Health authorities, and where appropriate the environment authorities, as a key to the prevention and control of Zoonoses and high impact infectious diseases.

He underlined also the upcoming activities of this plan in capacity building and assistance on the procedures for the surveillance and control of major animal diseases identified previously by member countries: FMD, PPR, RVF, Brucellosis and Rabies.

At the end the participants agreed on meeting again to comment on the draft Action Plan and the Terms of Reference.

The Regional Secretariat fixed the date of the 8th RSC virtual meeting on the 17th of November 2020.





Group Photo 1
