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OIE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD IN TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

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OIE International standard in  
trade negotiations

# Plan



- *Objectives*
- *Member Countries*
- *Structure*
- *Information Systems*
- *International Standards*
- *Summary*

# OIE Objectives

# *Objectives*



## **1. TRANSPARENCY**

To ensure transparency in the global animal disease and zoonosis situation

## **2. SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION**

To collect, analyse and disseminate scientific veterinary information

## **3. INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY**

To provide expertise and encourage international solidarity in the control of animal diseases

# *Objectives*

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## **4. HEALTH STANDARDS**

Within its mandate under the WTO SPS Agreement, to safeguard world trade by publishing health standards for international trade in animals and animal products.

## **5. LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

To improve the legal framework and resources of national Veterinary Services

## **6. ANIMAL WELFARE**

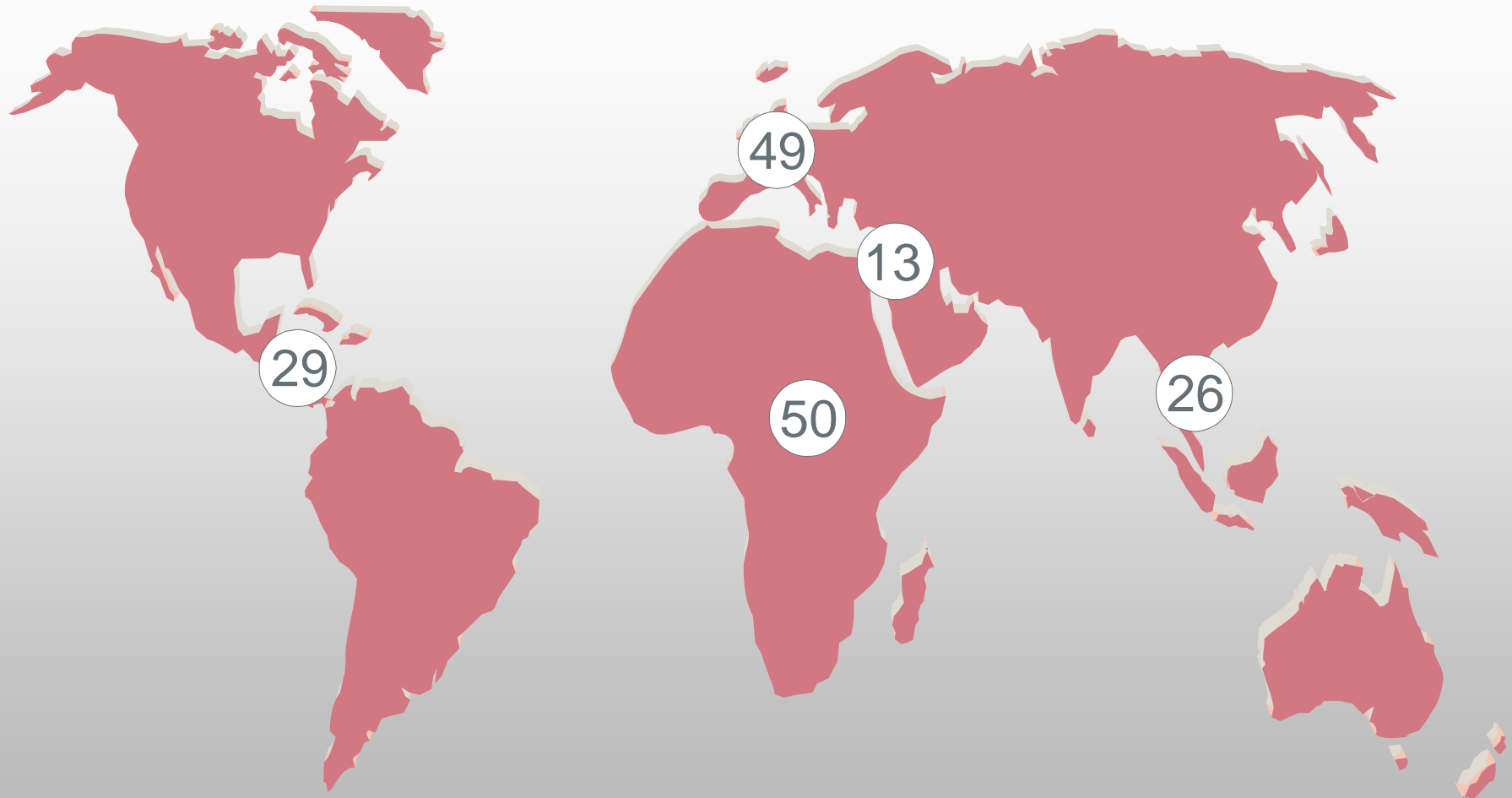
To provide a better guarantee of the safety of food of animal origin and to promote animal welfare through a science-based approach

## **7. FOOD SAFETY**

To provide a better guarantee of the safety of food of animal origin, To promote animal welfare, through a science-based approach



# 167 Member Countries



Américas: 29 – Africa: 50 – Europa: 49 – Medio Este: 13 – Asia: 26  
Americas: 29 – Africa: 50 – Europe: 49 – Middle East: 13 – Asia: 26

# OIE Structure

**COMITÉ INTERNACIONAL**  
**Comisión Administrativa**  
**Director General**



## *Specialist Commissions*



Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission  
«Code Commission»

Biological Standards Commission –  
"Laboratories Commission"

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases  
"Scientific Commission"

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission  
"Aquatic Animals Commission"

## ***OIE Information System***

***Promote transparency in  
and knowledge of  
global animal disease situation***

***NOTIFICATION***

## *Source of Early Warning Disease reports*



- *Reports from Member Countries*
- *Reports from worldwide network of OIE Reference Labs.*
- *Active search and tracking of unofficial sources, such as scientific publications and ProMed, and lay publications, with Member Country verification*



# *OIE International Standards*

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



Animal Health



Plant health



Food safety



SPS



# The OIE International Standards



- Introduction
- The four OIE standards are:

- The Terrestrial Animal Health Code

- The Aquatic Animal Health Code

- The Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals

- The Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals

TRADE

BIOLOGICAL

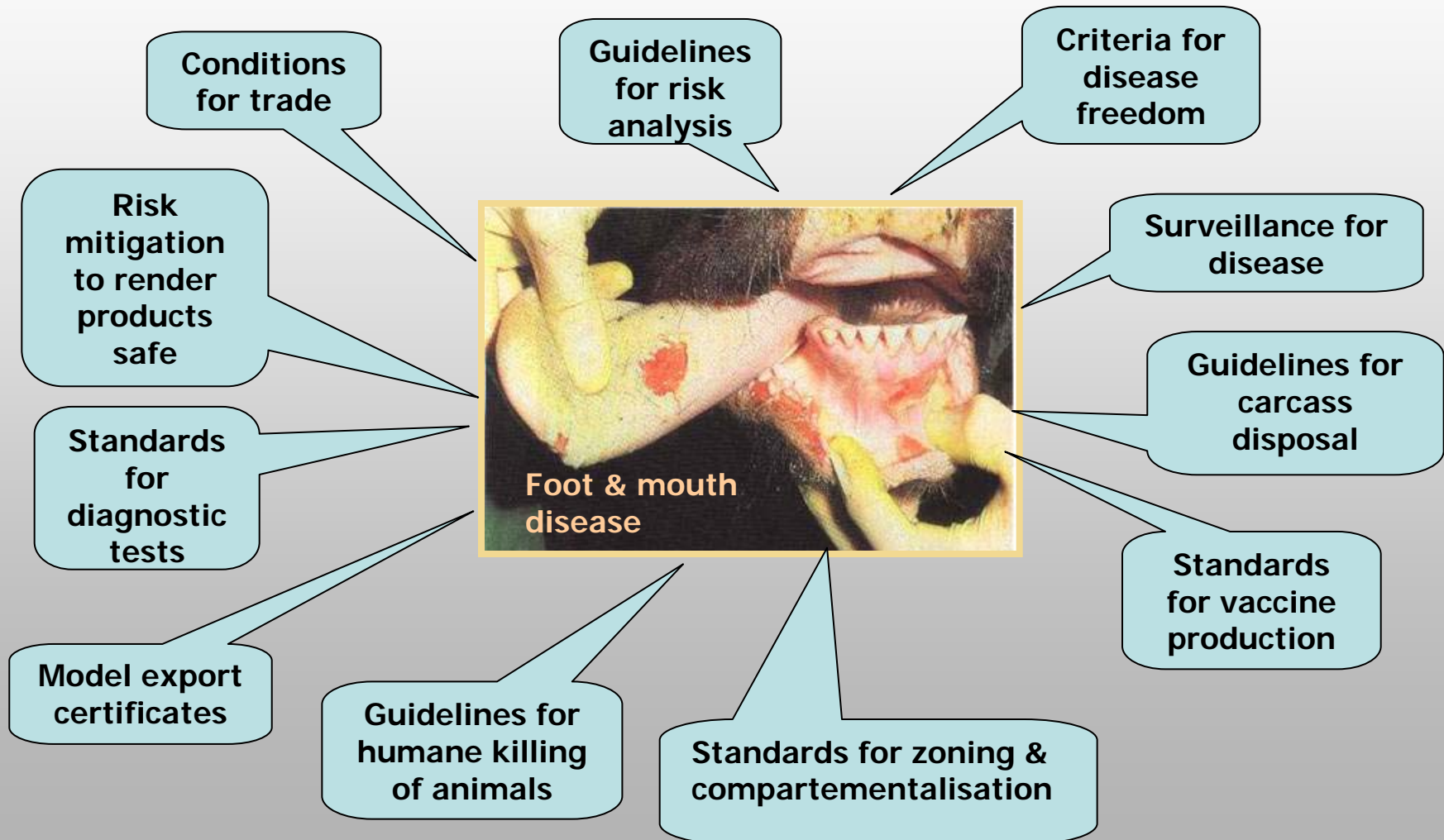
# Updating OIE standards



*How fast are they changing and  
in response to what pressure?*

- *Pressure by exporting countries  
to increase trade*
- *Pressure by importing countries  
to protect themselves*
- *Ethics and public health  
protection*

# What information is available from Codes and Manuals ?



# Approach in the *Terrestrial Code*

- generic (horizontal) chapters
  - **general definitions**
  - **obligations and ethics in international trade**
  - **disease notification**
  - **import risk analysis methodology**
  - **evaluation of veterinary services**
  - **import/export procedures**

# Approach in the *Terrestrial Code*

- specific chapters on OIE listed diseases of
  - mammals (eg, FMD, BSE)
  - birds (eg, avian influenza)
  - bees (eg, foulbrood)
- within each chapter, articles on
  - description of pathogen / disease
  - determining status of a country or zone
  - ‘safe’ commodities irrespective of status (if possible)
  - recommendations for ‘unsafe’ commodities

# Approach in the *Terrestrial Code*

- appendices
  - **collection and processing of semen**
  - **collection and processing of embryos/ova**
  - **disease surveillance - general and disease specific**
  - **inactivation of pathogens and vectors**
  - **animal welfare**
  - **antimicrobial resistance**
- model veterinary certificates for
  - **live animals**
  - **products of animal origin**

# CODES



- recommends health measures to be used by veterinary authorities or other competent authorities
  - to establish health regulations for the safe importation of animals and animal products
  - while avoiding unjustified trade restrictions
- now expanding into animal welfare and food safety



# Principles in the *Codes*

- WTO obligations complied with
- scientific basis for recommendations
  - assessment of risk factors
  - evaluation of veterinary services / competent authorities
  - zoning and compartmentalisation
  - epidemiological surveillance
- credible health certification
- importing country assumed to be free of disease or with a control programme

## *Evolution of OIE standards*

- harmonisation between *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Codes*
  - and with Codex
- regular updating of chapters based on latest scientific information
- re-emphasis from disease status to risk-based measures for commodities
- **Country – Zone – Commodities –  
Compartment**

# Purpose of the Codes ?

- the Codes are not textbooks on terrestrial or aquatic animal diseases, nor on zoonoses
- they are reference manuals for international standards for safe trade in terrestrial and aquatic animals and their products
- equivalent standards for the protection of **human health** are described in the Codex Alimentarius

(these should be read in conjunction with relevant requirements in the Codes)

# Critical aspects in using the Codes and Manuals

- do not use the Codes as a textbook on diseases
- use it as an international standard to evaluate measures to **protect animal and aquatic health** in the trade of animals and animal products
- ensure that the application of the standards of the Codes for national health measures are in accordance with obligations under the SPS Agreement

# Critical aspects in using the Codes and Manuals

- use the Guidelines for the Evaluation of Veterinary Services as an essential baseline for risk assessment
- use the Codes to establish baseline arguments to establish equivalence for trade negotiations
- use the Codes to establish cost-effective risk mitigation measures for trade
- use the Codes and Manuals to challenge scientific unjustifiable sanitary measures of importing countries

# SUMMARY



- COUNTRY LEGAL FRAMEWORK
- OIE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD
- BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS
- OIE DISPUTES MECHANISM
- SPS



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