



GF-TADs First Global Steering Committee Meeting  
(Thursday 6 March, 2008 / Rome FAO HQ)  
**MINUTES**

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## INTRODUCTION

1. The Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) is a joint FAO/OIE mechanism, which combines the strengths of both organisations to achieve the prevention and control of animal transboundary diseases (TADs) worldwide, and in particular to address their regional and global dimensions. WHO is also associated to this mechanism for zoonotic TADs.
2. The initiative's agreement (see [GF-TADs agreement](#)) was signed in May 2004, and falls under the broader agreement between OIE and FAO, which was renewed at the same time (see [agreement between the FAO and OIE](#)). The initiative developed out of the FMD crisis which took place in Europe in 2001.
3. While the agreement describes the governance and activities at the global and regional levels, only the governance at regional level had been put in place thus far, as part of the response to the avian influenza crisis, which required prompt *in situ* coordination.
4. However, the deliberations during the last International Conference on Avian and Human Influenza in New Delhi in December 2007 emphasized the need for collaboration on the prevention and control of epizootic diseases beyond avian influenza.
5. There is now a broad recognition that any uncontrolled transboundary animal disease in one single country is a potential threat to all countries, which could have large impacts on the livestock sector and sector-related livelihoods. This clearly demonstrates that the prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases is a Global Public Good.
6. Implementation of the proposed global governance structure of the GF-TADs, to decide, coordinate and harmonize strategies in the prevention and control of TADs, had therefore become pressing, and was the main purpose of the First Global Steering Committee meeting (see [agenda of the meeting](#)). The results of this meeting are reported below (presentations and discussions).
7. However, it is important to underline that this collaborative mechanism between two (or three) international organizations is unusual and innovative. This first global Steering Committee meeting was thus largely an exploratory meeting to continue the discussions on the global governance structure, mechanisms and roles.
8. The meeting was chaired by Mr. JM. Sumpsi (Officer in Charge, Agriculture and Consumer protection, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), with a high level representation from OIE (Mr. B. Vallat) and FAO (MM. J. Butler, S. Jutzi and J. Domenech). Thirty three participants, representing the GF-TADs regional Steering committees, regional and international organizations, NGOs and donors, attended the meeting (see [list of participants](#)).

## RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES OF GF-TADS

*General presentation of the initiative* (see [GF-TADs agreement](#) and [ppt](#)).

9. As mentioned above, GF-TADs is a collaborative coordination framework for the prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases worldwide. It intends to combine both a vertical (by disease) and a transversal (guaranty of good sanitary governance worldwide, based on the OIE recommendations) approaches.
10. While each region has its own priority diseases ('indicator diseases'), foot and mouth disease is an endemic burden worldwide and will benefit from a global control program starting at the end of 2008. This programme designed and implemented in strong partnership between FAO and OIE will follow the example of the GREP program for Rinderpest. In addition, neglected zoonoses such as brucellosis, tuberculosis, rabies, etc..., are having a significant impact on public health and will be another priority in the next 5-year Action Plan of the GF-TADs. Avian Influenza also remains a priority as well as other emerging and re-emerging zoonoses.
11. To support the identification, harmonization, and implementation of disease policies and control strategies, GF-TADs will make use of three newly established tools: the FAO/OIE/WHO GLEWS, the CMC-AH and OIE/FAO OFFLU (for AH only). The progress report of those 3 tools is clarified in sections below.
12. Most of the international community's technical and/or financial assistance in combating animal diseases is delivered at the country level. However, national level assistance alone is not enough when dealing with TADs. Support at the regional and global level is indispensable to harmonize and coordinate activities globally and to provide technical and institutional guidance in the prevention and control of animal diseases. In addition, some activities such as training and information exchange have a huge added value to be tackled at regional/global level.
13. It is estimated that the optimal balance between national, regional and global financial support is respectively 90%, 8% and 2% and that actions carried out at the regional and global levels however have in fine an impact at the national level. GF-TADs intends to be the right arena for those two important levels, which do not usually get appropriate support.

*Complementarities and synergies between OIE and FAO* (see [Chart](#) and [ppt](#)).

14. The mandates of OIE and FAO join up in the field of animal health. For some topics falling into this field, OIE (as the major International Organisation entirely devoted to animal health issues and in charge of animal health standards setting) or FAO (as the major Technical International Agency devoted to food and agricultural issues in developing countries including animal production and health and in charge of designing and implementing strategies and development programs in these developing countries / regions<sup>1</sup>) have primary responsibility; for some others, both organizations can intervene according to the chart of complementarities FAO-OIE agreed in 2007.
15. In those shared fields, clarification of 'who is doing what' and 'how to do it' is therefore needed in order to avoid duplications and to transform possible negative competition or overlapping into positive synergies. Collaborations between the two organizations can actually take the forms of support, complementarity and synergy.
16. In an effort to rationalize the collaboration between OIE and FAO in the field of animal health, a chart of OIE and FAO complementarities and synergies was produced in February 2007 and endorsed by the Director General of the two organizations and by the President of OIE.
17. While this chart provides a general outline, a companion *vade-mecum* will be finalized in the coming weeks to clarify the details of the proposed collaboration. The chart and this companion document will be presented to the OIE and FAO appropriate high management and will constitute the back-bone of the GF-TADs initiative.

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<sup>1</sup> The Independent external evaluation really underlined the competencies of FAO in the prevention and control of animal health (HPAI in particular)

## ACHIEVEMENTS AT THE GLOBAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS

### *Reports from the Regional GF-TADs Steering Committees (regional activities)*

18. Lots of results have been achieved at the regional level since 2004.
19. From an institutional perspective, all regional GF-TADs Steering Committees have been put in place since 2006 (Asia March 05; Americas April 2005; Europe October 2005; Middle-East April 2006 and Africa April 2006), along with the regional GF-TADs Secretariats (the OIE regional representations). The roles and mandates of the regional Steering Committees and their Secretariats need however to be further consolidated; the Terms of Reference for the Asian regional Steering Committee and Secretariat will serve as the model to implement in the other regions. As for the regional Secretariats, their roles are mainly to facilitate the transmission of information and help in the organization of regional events. Technical inputs will be provided by the HQ, regional and national teams of experts. At the regional level the expert teams will essentially be located in the Regional Animal Health Centers (see below) which are hosted by the Regional OIE or FAO Representations. The GF-TADs Regional Secretariats will provide policy and strategic advice to the RAHCs and RSUs
20. From a technical point of view, all reports are joint hereafter (see [regional reports](#) and [regional activity forms](#)). Overall, Africa was identified as the continent with the weakest capacities to respond to a crisis. However, thanks to the PARC and PACE programs implemented over the past 20 years, most of the countries have been able to cope with the avian influenza epizootic so far. This underlines the importance of long-term investment programs in the field of animal health (see point 35).
21. Operational and fully-equipped Regional Animal Health Centers are indispensable for the implementation of the GF-TADs activities at the regional level (Regional Support Units). These are already in place in Africa and in the Middle-East but need further operationalization.

### *Report from the GF-TADs Global Secretariat (global activities)*

22. A detailed global activity form (see [global activity form](#)) summarizes the main OIE-FAO joint achievements at the global level. They encompass: (i) the holding of many technical meetings, to ensure the appropriate lobbying in favor of the prevention and control of animal diseases; (ii) the definition of vertical (HPAI) and transversal (compensation; good governance) guidelines and strategies; (iii) the development of tools (GLEWS<sup>2</sup>, CMC-AH<sup>3</sup>; OFFLU<sup>4</sup>; IPFSAPH<sup>5</sup>; laboratory, epidemiology and socio-economic networks and regional leading laboratories and teams); (iv) the experts sharing and working groups; and (v) the design and implementation of priority programs (Rinderpest; FMD).
23. The Tools detailed reports of activities are also provided (see [GLEWS report](#), [CMC-AH report](#), [OFFLU report](#), [IPFSAPH report](#))<sup>6</sup>.

### *Results of the first evaluation of the GF-TADs initiative*

24. A first evaluation of the GF-TADs initiative was performed in December 2005, a year and a half after its launching. Thirty recommendations were provided to reinforce the partnership. A document (see [implementation of the recommendation](#)) summarizes the implementation status of these recommendations. Most of them have been put in place over the past 2 years; additional efforts are needed in the setting up of the regional animal centers, the information sharing and disease notification, the networking activities (laboratories, epidemicsurveillance and socio-economics) and an increased participation of FAO in OIE working groups. Only one recommendation regarding the implementation of a second evaluation has not been put in place (see below).

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<sup>2</sup> GLEWS: Global Early Warning System

<sup>3</sup> CMC-AH: Crisis Management Center for Animal Health

<sup>4</sup> OFFLU: OIE/FAO network of expertise on Avian Influenza

<sup>5</sup> IPFSAPH: International Portal on Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health

<sup>6</sup> FAO is participating in these Tools via its ECTAD and EMPRES units.

25. It was underlined that lots of results have been achieved so far and that it would be important for the OIE and FAO member countries to be informed of all this work. It was proposed that a report of the GF-TADs achievements be presented during the next OIE General Session and FAO Conferences. A GF-TADs website could also be an efficient way of sharing the information.

## SETTING UP THE GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

### *1. Governance structure at the global level*

It is proposed that the governance at the global level will involve 3 entities (see [governance chart](#)): the Global Steering Committee (guidance role), the Management Committee (decision-making role) and the Global Secretariat (implementation role).

### *2. Composition of the bodies at the global level*

26. Although specific Terms of Reference have been drafted for the three bodies, the OIE and FAO are still working for their finalization. As a result, the proposed ToRS could not be shared during the meeting. The participants asked FAO and OIE to come to an agreement on these ToRS and to circulate them shortly.

27. The main principles guiding the establishment of the governance structure are:

- The OIE and FAO will maintain, for the time being, the overall decision-making functions (Management Committee) under the guidance from the Steering Committee;
- The Global Steering Committee will be composed of members from OIE, FAO and WHO, regional organizations (2), donors (2), and the five regional GF-TADs Steering Committees' presidents. The Steering Committee should not have more than 12 to 15 members, although the status and roles of observers can be explored further. The mode of selection of the regional organizations and donors' representatives will be proposed before the next Global Steering Committee meeting.
- The Global Secretariat is in charge of facilitating the implementation of the activities of global scope of the expert teams implementing technical activities (GLEWS, CMC-AH, OFFLU, research activities, pilot studies, conferences, etc...) in relation with the Secretariat of the regional Steering Committee.

28. The meeting raised a number of questions regarding the proposed governance structure:

- The roles of the Regional Organizations in the Global steering Committee was unclear and will need to be clarified in the Global Steering Committee Terms of reference. The sustainability of the GF-TADs regional activities implies the strong involvement of the RSOs (such as the ASEAN for ASIA, the IICA for America or the IBAR for Africa).
- The recipient countries are represented (not only the donor countries are here) in the Global steering Committee via the presidents of the Regional GF-TADs Steering Committees. It is, however still under discussion whether these countries could be observers. The regional GF-TADs Steering Committees were appointed according to the FAO-OIE GF-TADs agreement but their final composition needs to be further precised.
- The donors invited to be part of the GF-TADs Global Steering Committee are those already involved in FAO and OIE activities (mainly through HPAI activities). It was suggested to also involve the middle income country donors, as such countries are increasingly inclined to fund animal health activities. The private sector is represented via the IFAH.
- Two options on how to appoint/select donors to be part of the Global Steering Committee were discussed during the meeting: either OIE or FAO (co-Presidents) appoint the two donors; or the donors select their representatives out of a donor's caucus. The donors will be consulted electronically over the coming weeks to decide upon the selection mechanism.

- The Secretariat is proposed to be staffed with people in charge of the facilitating and coordination support activities only (Secretary and assistant to the Secretary). All proposed other technical staff are involved in their operational teams/units (GLEWS, CMC-AH, etc...).

## THE WAY FORWARD

### *General orientations for 2008-2013*

29. A general chart was presented during the meeting (see [2008-2013 Action Plan outlines](#)). It lists all the activities needed to ensure all the crucial steps in fighting animal diseases, which are: awareness, preparedness, surveillance and disease intelligence, understanding of socio-economic context, prevention, control, information and communication and coordination. Surveillance, early detection and rapid response remain the credo of the GF-TADs.
30. Proposed activities involved mainly the global and regional levels; however, an international emergency fund is also currently under consideration with OIE, FAO, World Bank and OECD to directly support developing countries, should an epizootic occur. These funds may also be used as part of a prevention program, in the event of a regional threat.
31. The proposed Action-Plan will also be aligned with the conclusions of the next Inter-Ministerial Cairo Conference (October 08) on HPAI and other zoonotic diseases. The final Action Plan will be circulated to the Global Steering Committee by the end of the year to be endorsed during the next global Steering Committee. In the meantime, an Interim Action Plan will be implemented, mainly consisting in the preparation of the Cairo conference and of all the documents to move forward (see last section).

### *Budget presentation for 2008-2013*

32. A global budget, amounting to circa 100 million US\$ over 5 years (2008-2013) was rapidly presented (see [global budget](#)). It is largely based on the initial budget enclosed on the 2004 GF-TADs agreement, with as main changes the addition of the CMC-AH and socio-economic networks budgets.
33. Since 2004, funding of the GF-TADs has mainly been provided through HPAI funds. Those funds are driven by the threat of a possible AHI pandemic and are therefore mostly 'opportunistic' and short-term. It is hoped that the Cairo conference will set the stage for a more comprehensive funding of animal health activities (HPAI and other zoonotic diseases). Additional funds will be needed for the GF-TADs initiative and the organization of a pledging session is under discussion. It should definitely articulate with the Cairo pledging conference to avoid duplication of funding and to ensure that zoonotic and non-zoonotic animal diseases receive equal attention.
34. The discussions also surfaced the need for the donors to reconsider the way animal health should be funded. Long-term investments are instrumental to ensure the sustainable control of animal diseases worldwide. Two best examples are GLEWS and CMC-AH whose efficiency implies their running on the long-term. The issue is that most of donors do not have visibility in the programming of the funds allocated to the livestock sector and are ill-equipped to fund activities over a 10-years period. One crucial role of GF-TADs will be to ensure the necessary lobbying for donors to conceive new ways of supporting animal health activities.
35. The following comments were made by the participants:
  - The budget should mention not only the overall 5-year needs but also identify the funding gaps.
  - Clear differentiation should be made between the collaboration activities and the technical activities - regional (RAHCs) and global (GLEWS, CMC-AH, OFFLU, etc...) -, for donors to be able to fund according to their internal priorities and available financial envelopes. It will also clarify the fact that the budgets of the 'modules' do not superpose to the overall budget.
  - All proposed activities participate in the prevention and control of TADs and therefore are Global Public Goods. As a result, grants - and not loans - should be the priority financial tools in use.
  - Investments at the national level need to be clearly identified.
 A revised budget taking all these comments into account will be circulated to the Steering Committee members in preparation of the pledging session for the GF-TADs initiative.

### ***Preparation of a pledging session***

36. The meeting did not finalize the conclusions of the discussions regarding this matter. This session should be carefully planned in order to be successful and avoid Donors' lassitude. Notably, the issue could be part of the advocacy work to be presented during the Cairo Inter-Ministerial conference or to be at least in line with its conclusions (see point 34).

### ***Preparation of the Second evaluation***

37. A second evaluation of the GF-TADs will take place as soon as possible and in any case before the end of 2008. It will identify the possible weaknesses in the implementation of the initiative and identify if operating in a collaborative framework fosters trust and credibility for both OIE and FAO. The Global Secretariat will draft the Terms of Reference for the exercise.
38. The results of the evaluation will be shared during the second Global Steering Committee, should the calendar allow it and will serve as guidance for the next 5-year Action Plan.
39. The participants insisted that the evaluation be independent and that the Global Steering Committee be informed and involved throughout the whole process.
40. As for the first one, the second evaluation will be equally co-financed by OIE and FAO.

## **CONCLUSIONS - NEXT STEPS**

41. The meeting allowed covering a wide range of topics, from technical to financial and institutional issues. The recommendations of the meeting are attached (see [recommendations of the first Global Steering Committee](#)).
42. The meeting addressed some organizational issues to be taken into account in the future: all the documents, particularly those where decisions are to be made, will be circulated at least one month prior to the Steering Committee meeting.
43. Regarding the objectives which could not be reached during the meeting such as the composition of the Global Steering Committee, all the suggestions provided during the meeting will be taken forward; notably the following documents will be circulated electronically to the participants in the coming weeks:
  - A detailed Work Plan / roadmap until the next Global Steering Committee meeting scheduled early 2009 (date to be determined)
  - Tentative Terms of Reference for the Global Steering Committee, the Management Committee and the Global Secretariat;
  - Proposed composition of the GF-TADs Global Steering committee and Management Committee
  - A revised budget (see above)
  - Tentative Terms of Reference for the 2<sup>nd</sup> evaluation of the GF-TADs initiative
  - The Companion Note of the complementarity chart.
44. The establishment of the Global GF-TADs Steering Committee Secretariat in Rome will be confirmed shortly.
45. The date and venue of the next Global Steering Committee will be proposed (tentatively March 2009).
46. The participants will have one month to provide their feed-back.