



# **New Zealand's Strategic Objectives for the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) 2019-2023**

### **Publisher**

Ministry for Primary Industries  
Charles Fergusson Building  
34-38 Bowen Street  
PO Box 2526, Wellington 6140, New Zealand  
Tel: 0800 00 83 33  
Web: [www.mpi.govt.nz](http://www.mpi.govt.nz)

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## What are we doing?

We are setting out New Zealand's Strategic Objectives for the OIE 2019-2023 to guide our participation in the OIE and advance our objectives in a clear and transparent manner.

## Why are we doing this?

The international trade in animals and animal products is conducted in accordance with international rules and guidelines. The World Trade Organization's (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) requires that any sanitary and phytosanitary measures that are applied to animals or animal products in relation to international trade are based on international standards, science and risk assessment. The intent behind these standards is that safe international trade is facilitated, while still allowing importing countries to apply appropriate measures to the extent necessary to protect human, animal, or plant life or health.

The OIE is recognised by the WTO as the standard setting body for the international trade in animals and animal products. It also has a key role in developing the capacity of veterinary services of its members, as well as to assist in the international control of animal diseases. The OIE's broad objectives include:

- to ensure transparency in the global animal disease situation;
- to encourage international solidarity in the control of animal diseases;
- to safeguard world trade by publishing health standards for international trade in animals and animal products;
- to improve the legal framework and resources of national Veterinary Services; and
- to provide a better guarantee of food of animal origin and to promote animal welfare through a science-based approach.

As WTO members, we are required to base our measures on these international standards.

New Zealand has a world leading reputation for adherence to WTO SPS Agreement principles in that all our (domestic, import and export) SPS requirements are risk-based, proportionate to the specific risks involved and do not create unnecessary technical barriers to trade. These rules are the cornerstone of our international trading arrangements.

Our participation in the OIE is focused on supporting science<sup>1</sup> based harmonisation of standards consistent with WTO SPS principles. This in turn enhances New Zealand's reputation as a trusted trader and the reputation of our New Zealand Inc. brand. New Zealand must take every opportunity to influence and gain maximum value from participation in the OIE.

Additionally New Zealand's participation in the OIE can be used as a platform to address elements of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) and targets that New Zealand (as a United Nations member) has adopted<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Science is the pursuit and application of knowledge and understanding of the natural and social world following a systematic methodology based on evidence. Scientific methodology includes i.e. objective observation: measurement and data, evidence that either supports or disproves active hypotheses, experiment and/or observation as benchmarks for testing hypotheses, induction, reasoning to establish general rules or conclusions drawn from facts or examples, reproducibility, critical analysis and verification.

<sup>2</sup> Specifically the OIE is focusing on the following UNSDGs: no poverty; zero hunger; good health and well-being; quality education; gender equality; decent work and economic growth; sustainable cities and communities; and peace, justice and strong institutions.

# Strategic Objectives

## Strategic Objective 1:

**Influence OIE standards to reflect New Zealand's commitment to rigorous, transparent and impartial science-based standards (so called rules-based trade) in the international trade of animals and animal products.**

### Comment

Harmonised standards simplify trade and provide our trading partners with a common starting point for market access negotiations. Harmonised standards can also reduce the need for multiple bilateral agreements to trade in specific commodities.

## How do we do it?

As relevant to MPI's priorities, New Zealand will:

- identify and prioritise areas of importance to New Zealand's trade in animals and animal products, and risks to animal health and welfare that can be addressed through the OIE;
- consult with appropriate stakeholders including the animal and animal product sectors, public health experts, veterinarians, and government agencies, on the development of OIE standards, guidance, tools, and capacity development programmes;
- maintain and develop capacity and capability within MPI;
- lead and participate in working groups, ad hoc groups, forums, Committees and Specialist Commissions (including the Asia-Pacific Regional Commission), in the development of OIE standards; and
- partner with like-minded members to support the development of OIE standards that are of mutual or common interest.

## How do we know if we are successful?

### Success indicators

New Zealand can demonstrate it has:

- considered the use of, or is using, the OIE standards setting process to improve New Zealand's animal and animal products imports and exports systems and to protect animals and their welfare;
- focused on areas of the most importance to facilitate safe trade of New Zealand's animal and animal products, and to protect animal health and welfare;
- successfully consulted relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, and that stakeholders continue to participate as they see value in the process;
- appropriately resourced the work to participate in the delivery of the OIE standards and programme of work;
- provided relevant active support to working groups, ad hoc groups, forums, Committees and Commissions in the development of OIE standards; and
- partnered with like-minded members to progress shared interests in developing OIE standards.

## Strategic Objective 2:

### Strengthening strategic relationships and alliances.

#### Comment

Strong strategic relationships both domestically and internationally and alliances are central to getting the most out of New Zealand's input into the OIE. In addition to maintaining and building on the very strong relationships we have with our key trading partners, we recognise a need to work collaboratively on the development of OIE standards with other like-minded members and members of growing trade importance.

To get maximum results from our participation in OIE, we need to ensure that relevant work is appropriately resourced. We also have a role in the building of capability and capacity in OIE developing countries that are seeking support. This further enhances New Zealand's reach, and ability to work with others constructively on a wide range of issues that have the potential to improve New Zealand's animal health and trading systems.

#### How do we do it?

- Ensure the OIE standard development reflects consultation with relevant stakeholders including the primary production sectors, public health experts, veterinarians, and government agencies, as appropriate.
- Work collaboratively on the development of OIE standards with our trading partners through forums such as the Quads (New Zealand, Australia, Canada and the United States), and markets of growing trade importance.
- Work with members that are seeking support, (particularly within the region), to participate more effectively in OIE by assisting with capacity and capability development. This includes providing expertise and training opportunities such as assistance in disease readiness and response planning (through activities like the South East Asia Foot and Mouth Disease (SEACFMD) initiative in South-East Asia and China).
- Support and encourage developing countries, (particularly within the region), with OIE development initiatives (such as twinning<sup>3</sup> and collaboration centres<sup>4</sup>).

#### How do we know if we are successful?

##### Success indicators

- Consultation is shown to reflect feedback from relevant stakeholders, and stakeholders feel that it is truly a consultative process.
- We have put forward shared proposals or interventions with like-minded members.
- Risk is managed at the source through initiatives with other members, or groups of members, including but not limited to within Asia, the Far East and Oceania, and the Quads members.
- We have provided support (including on OIE development initiatives), expertise and training opportunities to assist developing countries.

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<sup>3</sup> Twinning Arrangements are between institutions in developed countries and those in developing countries, covering areas such as veterinary education, animal welfare, laboratory diagnostics and veterinary statutory body oversight.

<sup>4</sup> OIE Collaborating Centres are centres of expertise in a specific designated sphere of competence relating to the management of animal disease, with the expectation that they provide their expertise internationally.

## Strategic Objective 3:

### Promoting a strong, efficient and transparent OIE.

#### Comment

To be a strong, efficient, and transparent organisation, the OIE needs to continue to successfully maintain and provide standards that members use and implement as the foundation on which to build their animal health and trading systems.

A focus on promoting the following key improvement areas for OIE is considered to help achieve this goal:

- greater efficiency in:
  - i. ensuring OIE's timely response to current and emerging issues; and
  - ii. collaborating with other international standards setting bodies;
- greater transparency in:
  - i. managing and prioritising the OIE workload (including linking priorities to the OIE's strategic goals);
  - ii. use of the limited resources of the OIE and its membership; and
  - iii. governance arrangements, including a better understanding and alignment of the Headquarters and Regional/Sub-Regional Offices and Regional Commissions; and
- for the OIE to remain relevant, all members have a role in helping to ensure that they incorporate OIE rules into their trade in animals and animal products.

#### How do we do it?

- Support the continuous review and improvement of OIE procedures and processes - both in the area of governance of the OIE, as well as in standards development.
- Support the use of OIE standards in New Zealand's trade agreements and implementation agreements.
- Actively supporting and participating in the review of OIE's work management structures and processes (including the use of information technology and web based systems for communication).
- Ensure New Zealand has clear priorities for our technical participation in standards development and other work programme items, and resources those priorities appropriately;
- Supporting optimal transparency of the OIE standard making process, including the various commissions.
- Supporting collaboration between OIE and other international standards setting bodies through:
  - systematic collaboration between the OIE and Codex to ensure that the outputs of the two organisations are aligned and address food safety and health protection issues across the food chain; and
  - closer collaboration and co-operation between the OIE, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in areas of common interest such as One Health and anti-microbial resistance (AMR).

# How do we know if we are successful?

## Success indicators

- New Zealand has made efforts to incorporate OIE references into bilateral and plurilateral trade agreements and implementing arrangements.
- Work management structures and processes (including the use of information technology and web based systems for communication) have been reviewed and new methods of communication are incorporated.
- New Zealand has established clear priorities for its engagement with the OIE.
- Transparency of the various OIE standard making processes (including commissions) is promoted.
- Collaboration between OIE and other international standards setting bodies has been promoted.





**Ministry for Primary Industries**  
**Manatū Ahu Matua**

PO Box 2526, Wellington 6140  
New Zealand

0800 00 83 33

[www.mpi.govt.nz](http://www.mpi.govt.nz)

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