

CHAPTER 7

DIALOGUES

ARTICLE 7.1

Cooperation in Combating Antimicrobial Resistance

1. The State Parties recognise that antimicrobial resistance is a serious threat to human and animal health. Antibiotic use in animal production can contribute to antimicrobial resistance that may represent a risk to humans, either through direct infection by resistant zoonotic bacteria or by the transfer of resistance determinants to other bacteria. The State Parties recognise that the nature of the threat is transnational.
2. The State Parties agree to cooperate and follow existing and future guidelines, standards, recommendations and actions developed in relevant international organisations, initiatives and national plans aiming to promote reduced use of antibiotics and relating to animal production and veterinary practices.
3. The State Parties support the implementation of agreed international action plans on antimicrobial resistance.

ARTICLE 7.2

Maximum Residual Levels

The State Parties agree to:

- (a) exchange scientific and technical information on food and feed safety, animal and plant health areas, including risk assessment and the scientific information supporting the establishment of Maximum Residue Levels (MRL);
- (b) exchange information on new policies, domestic laws and regulations, guidelines, good agricultural practices, in particular those aimed at improving the authorisation process of veterinary medicines, pesticide products and food and feed additives and their uses; and
- (c) facilitate scientific cooperation, dialogue and the exchange of information in particular regarding risk assessment and processes for authorising veterinary medicines, pesticide products and food and feed additives and for establishing their respective MRL.

ARTICLE 7.3

Animal Welfare

1. The State Parties recognise that animals are sentient beings. They undertake to reach a common understanding on animal welfare matters for their mutual benefit taking into consideration the WOAHA guidelines and recommendations, and to respect trade conditions that aim to protect animal welfare.
2. The State Parties undertake to exchange information, expertise and experiences in animal welfare in order to improve, whenever necessary, their respective approaches on regulatory standards including those related to production systems, transportation, traceability and slaughter of animals.
3. The State Parties undertake to cooperate in international fora, including the WOAHA, with the aim to promote the further development of good animal welfare practices and their implementation.

ARTICLE 7.4

Agricultural Biotechnology

This dialogue shall cover, *inter alia*:

- (a) exchange of information on policies, legislation, guidelines, and good practices of agricultural biotechnology products;
- (b) exchange of information on national positions in the framework of relevant international organisations;
- (c) discussions of specific topics on biotechnology that could have impact on trade between the Parties;
- (d) exchange of information on topics related to asynchronous authorisations of genetically modified organisms (GMOs);
- (e) exchange of information on the economic and trade outlook of authorisations of GMOs, if available; and
- (f) exchange of information about low level presence of GMOs in shipments that are non-authorised in the importing State Party but authorised in the exporting State Party.