



XXXI



SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

PAN-AMERICAN FOOT-AND-MOUT DISEASE CENTER

## FINAL REPORT



Veterinary Public Health Unit - PAHO/WHO





## **FINAL REPORT**

**Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia**

April 1-2, 2004



PAN-AMERICAN FOOT-AND-MOUT DISEASE CENTER  
Veterinary Public Health Unit - PAHO/WHO

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# CONTENTS

## FINAL REPORT

1. Opening of the Meeting .....	5
2. Report of the Secretary .....	6
3. Status of National and Subregional Programs .....	7
4. Report on follow-up of emergencies (Triple borders Bolivia/Paraguay/Argentina) and Venezuela .....	8
5. Report of Audits Seminar .....	9
6. Report of Pre-COSALFA Seminar .....	9
7. Presentation of SivCont .....	10
8. Report of the Hemispheric Conference on the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in Houston, Texas, USA .....	10
9. Proposal for the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Eradication Program in Bolivia .....	10
10. Other matters .....	11
11. Approval of Resolutions .....	12
12. Closing of the Meeting .....	12

<b>RESOLUTIONS</b> .....	15
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<b>ANNEXES</b> .....	29
- Agenda (Annex 1) .....	31
- First Meeting of the Inter-laboratorial Group .....	32
- List of participants (Annex 2) .....	35



## XXXI ORDINARY MEETING

### FINAL REPORT

#### 1. OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony was attended by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of Bolivia, Lic. Diego Montenegro; Dr. Hernán Rojas, Director of Animal Health of the Agriculture and Livestock Service (SAG) of Chile; Lic. Antonio Franco, President of the Confederation of Livestock Producers of Bolivia (CONGABOL); Dr. Albino Belotto, Chief of Veterinary Public Health of PAHO/WHO; Dr. Eduardo Correa Melo, Director of PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO, and Lic. Mauricio Rodríguez, General Director of the National Service of Agriculture and Livestock Health and Food Safety (SENASAG).

Lic. Franco opened the session and expressed his satisfaction to welcome the delegates of the eleven member countries and observers. He mentioned the importance of the Department of Santa Cruz de la Sierra within the Bolivian context and its productive capacity, as a center of development in a country with production and survival difficulties. He also remarked on the importance of the Meeting to attain the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD).

Dr. Correa greeted the delegates and observers and transmitted the concern of the Director of the Organization over the progress of the hemispheric program, which has a direct impact not only on the productive economies of the countries but also on the welfare of people and the availability of food for the population in general. He mentioned the importance to combat FMD through the Systems of Veterinary Services of the countries, which are essential for our work in FMD and which also attend other diseases of importance in human health. During the Conference of Houston, the countries reiterated their commitment and it was decided to form a working group to develop an eradication project. Finally, he thanked the authorities and the livestock sector of Bolivia for their hospitality, hoping that these deliberations will lead to a reorientation of the programs.

Lic. Diego Montenegro, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, welcomed the participants in the name of the national government, expressing that it was an honor for Bolivia, and especially for the city of Santa Cruz, for the choice to host the Meeting. He emphasized the importance to combat FMD and the support of PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO and the countries of the Agricultural and Livestock Production Community of the South (CAS). He detailed the animal populations and the importance of the sector in the economy of the country. He declared that it is a commitment to be disease-free and that the government is determined to carry it through and pointed out as examples the recognition of Chiquitanía and the progress of a similar program in Beni/Pando and in Oruro/Potosí.

The Executive Table was installed with Dr. Hernán Rojas who, as president of the XXX Meeting, gave the floor to Dr. Correa to lead its formation. Lic. Diego Montenegro was elected President and Dr. Recaredo Ugarte, Chief of Veterinary Services of Uruguay, Rapporteur. Dr. Ugarte referred to COSALFA holding its Meeting in Bolivia, due to its epidemiologic importance in the fight against the disease, and spoke of the need of regional support to the Bolivian program. Finally, he mentioned that the success of Bolivia is essential for the success of the subcontinent and that as a result of the conference in Houston, the Inter American Group for Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (GIEFA) was created to establish the basis for cooperation towards a new vision for eradication. The agenda was then discussed, including in Other Matters the topic of non-acceptance of recognition of free zones with and without vaccination presented by some countries to the OIE.

## 2. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

The Secretary *ex officio* read the report of the Secretariat which covered the following topics:

**Emergency situations:** The situation of FMD in the subcontinent was relatively uneventful. However, events during the period at the triple borders of Argentina/Bolivia/Paraguay, in Ecuador and in Venezuela, pointed out the urgent need of modification in the scope of PHEFA. The occurrence of 9 outbreaks in Bolivia involving 31 premises, one outbreak in Pozo Hondo, Paraguay, and another one in Tartagal, Argentina, all of them by virus O, resulted in the emergency attention given by the River Plate Basin Project – RPBP (PCP) which, by common agreement with the Permanent Veterinary Committee – PVC (CVP), sent 5 missions with professionals of the veterinary services of the countries of the subregion, under the coordination of PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO.

During the period, 277 suspicions of the disease were recorded and 63 outbreaks were diagnosed in Venezuela, due to types O and A, with wide geographical diffusion in the country, while in Ecuador 164 outbreaks were recorded, of which 140 had no laboratory diagnosis. Technical cooperation visits were then made to Venezuela and international meetings were held with representatives of Colombia, Brazil, Guyana and PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO. Venezuela developed a new national program to control the epidemic situation and to stamp out the disease within its territory. With regard to Ecuador, the situation was reported to the Animal Health Service of Ecuador-SESA, with copy to alert all the Andean subregion.

**Progress in the regions:** In the subregional project for eradication of FMD in the River Plate Basin, the countries of the Agreement were encouraged to continue strengthening eradication strategies based on the local context, at the level of risk borders, and within the framework of the Plan of Action 2003-2009 of PHEFA-Southern Cone. Emergency activities must also be highlighted, which were carried out at the regional level and implemented through multinational missions with professionals of the countries of the area and coordinated by PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO. This has given the greatest transparency to the FMD situation in 2003 and technical cooperation with the programs of the countries within PHEFA was feasible. Seven international missions were carried out within the framework of the River Plate Basin Project (RPBP) and Permanent Veterinary Committee (PVC) to consolidate and strengthen FMD programs in the subregion, involving approximately 180 professionals of the local borders, and regional and central levels of the national services. Special attention was given to the formation and development of departmental commissions for animal health.



**Support to countries for recognition of status:** The absence of the disease in some countries of the Andean subregion made it feasible to solicit recognition of a free zone without vaccination in Peru and additions to the zone already recognized as free with vaccination in the Atlantic Coast of Colombia, the Andean and Amazon Zones.

The need to assist the Amazon subregion was registered in a resolution requesting PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO, in its capacity as technical secretariat of the Brazil/Guyana/Venezuela Tripartite Agreement, to convoke the member countries to a meeting in the second week of April 2003. In the meeting there would be discussions on animal trade in the region within the frame of the prevention project of the Brazil/Guyana/Venezuela borders, in accordance with the guidelines of the Plan of Action 2003-2009 of PHEFA. It was not possible to hold this meeting but, as mentioned previously, support was given to the development of the National Plan of Venezuela.

**Activities of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO in international meetings:** Activities towards the harmonic use of serologic and virologic tools for the active surveillance of the region were strengthened. Emphasis must be made on the setting up of a permanent forum for discussion in South America to harmonize the use of these tests in the region and also to consider means for the establishment of panels of unified sera to evaluate commercial kits.

Likewise, cooperation links were strengthened with other international organizations, such as OIE, IAEA and FAO, participating in consultative groups for the normalization of the use and performance of evaluation tools for diagnostic tests.

**Biosecurity:** In accordance with the mandate of PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO, it was reiterated that member countries of COSALFA must define in the short term and make official biologic security regulations in harmony with those already existing in the region for the handling of FMD virus in their territories. Due to operational problems, it was not possible to complete the scheduled evaluation visits to other laboratories of the subregion. These will be rescheduled for the current year.

In accordance to the current legislation in Brazil, PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO transferred the South American virus strain collection to a biosecurity laboratory until BL-3A level installations are available in PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO.

### 3. SITUATION OF NATIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL PROGRAMS

Dr. Victor Saraiva then presented the situation of regional and subregional programs of FMD of the countries, emphasizing the emergency situations at the triple border (Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay), Venezuela and Ecuador. Discussions started and the official representative of Ecuador requested that the number of reported outbreaks be corrected from 18 to 22. He took the opportunity to report the derogation of the National Commission for Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, which has taken motivation out of the activities. However, a law is being drafted to give juridical status to the existence of the national commission.

The official representative of Venezuela recognized the difficulties the country has gone through and their impact on sanitary activities. He reported a decrease in vaccination coverage and that action has been focused on international sectors, especially with Colombia, with which joint programs are being prepared. There were also problems in transit control but there is now a certain awareness of

the authorities towards eradication, and emergency resources have been assigned. The program also received the support of APHIS-USDA and of the states which are contributing funds. Finally, he thanked PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO for its support. The representative of the private sector reiterated that they are ratifying the commitment to eradicate the disease together with the public sector.

The official delegate of Uruguay thanked PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO for its constantly keeping the historical records of the programs statistics, especially those referring to public and private contributions. In his opinion, this investment brings an additional profit due to export price increases when the program shows positive results. He proposed a resolution for the countries to send to PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO all the data on the benefits observed to be compared with the funding resources invested in campaigns.

The official representative of Colombia requested the revision of titles of the zones proposed to OIE, for Atlantic and Andean zones, as well as modification of the denomination of the plains area to Amazon area. He further requested that mention be made of the report that vaccination in Colombia was carried out in all herds in two cycles.

#### **4. REPORT ON FOLLOW-UP OF EMERGENCIES BOLIVIA, PARAGUAY, ARGENTINA AND VENEZUELA**

Dr. Francisco Muzio started the afternoon session with an outline of activities carried out by the countries and by PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO, to attend a request from the Permanent Veterinary Committee, due to the emergency situation in the tripartite Chaco region. Two missions were formed by professionals of the countries of the subregion, which gave transparency to the process. In all cases support was given to the national authorities of the countries during emergency control activities and in the establishment of follow-up programs. The conclusion was that national services faced the emergency immediately but it was not possible to identify the origin of the infection due to the lack of service infrastructure at the locality. Transit control, especially of swine, is difficult and the origin of the infection is possibly within the region, as shown by the similarity of virus samples of the region characterized by PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO. It was recommended to strengthen local structure and the need to continue regionalization of the ecosystem to establish a common strategy between the three countries.

Dr. Luis Alberto Pitta spoke in detail of the action taken by the international group in the region of the Candua outbreak, the relationship between foci of the region and their very fast diffusion to the Bolivian highlands.

Dr. Gilfredo Darsie presented an analysis of the epidemiologic occurrence in Venezuela. He mentioned the social and political problems which had a negative impact in the carrying out of the programs and the low vaccination coverage of the susceptible population due to the broad geographic reach of the disease. Communication problems between the public and private sector were another handicap. A specific technical cooperation program was established with the support of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO and SASA is going to implement a new national plan to eradicate FMD. The official representative of Chile asked both countries if there had been a strengthening of the veterinary services structure, and both delegations replied. However, the official representative of Bolivia informed that further details would follow.

Dr. Jaime Castells, representative of the private sector of Uruguay, who also participated in one of the supporting missions to Bolivia, remarked on the lack of structure and regretted that internal problems reflect on the national programs of other countries with impact on livestock population.

Dr. Antenor Nogueira, representing the private sector of Brazil, referred to the previous subject and reported on the cooperation of the national private sector through the donation of vaccines to the neighboring countries.

Dr. Castells mentioned the donation of bivalent vaccines by Uruguay, which was refused, and wished to know if there was a technical consideration over its possible use. Dr. Correa remarked that PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO has a technical position over the procedure to withdraw C virus from the vaccine. The matter was settled by the Minister of Agriculture of Bolivia, who determines no trade between Bolivia and countries using trivalent vaccine, in case bivalent vaccine is used, but this should be further discussed.

## **5. REPORT ON THE AUDITING SEMINAR**

Dr. Victor Saraiva then presented the report on the audit seminar held in February 2004 in Buenos Aires, as well as the results of the working groups regarding audit regulations, the revised guide and criteria for the carrying out of the audits. He reiterated that the participating delegates should inform PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO as soon as possible regarding their opinion on these documents so that the next auditing cycle can be scheduled. The Minister of Bolivia mentioned the agreement of the Ministers of Agriculture proposing that results of the audits be made public. Dr. Correa mentioned the agreements of Houston to extend audits to other countries. Dr. Rojas acknowledged the work of the audits but requested that they should focus on critical areas. He mentioned that the analysis of audits results, especially in critical zones, is missing. Follow-up of corrective action is required and analysis results should be made public.

Dr. Correa informed that this has been foreseen in the new audit regulations. The representative of Bolivia indicated that the working schedule must be adapted to reality so that arrangements can be made. He insisted on working schedules adapted to reality, referring specifically to the criteria for vaccination. The Minister of Bolivia summarized and indicated that audits must follow the reality of the location and should focus on critical areas. Dr. Saraiva explained that the guide establishes audits should be based on the eradication program of the country. This was ratified by Dr. Correa who insisted that in critical areas the type of action required to improve eradication procedures must be analyzed.

## **6. REPORT ON PRE-COSALFA SEMINAR**

Dr. Hugo Tamayo, of PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO, presented the report on the Regionalization Seminar, held previous to this meeting, and spoke in detail of the sessions emphasizing the four working groups which offered ideas and suggestions for consideration during COSALFA. As a result, the participants of the Seminar presented to COSALFA a proposal of resolution requesting PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO, together with the countries, to develop a methodology for regionalization, harmonizing all their efforts on the matter; also, to bear in mind past experience in the region, especially in still

endemic zones at national borders, which require different and coordinated strategies between the countries to combat the disease. Finally, he reiterated the importance of regionalization in FMD eradication and the need for characterization of livestock spaces and ecosystems of the disease.

## **7. PRESENTATION ON SIVCONT**

Mr. Antonio Mendes then took the floor to present a report on the progress of the development of SIVCONT, with special reference to the seminar held on the establishment of the system in the Andean region and in the Southern Cone. He mentioned the characteristics of the system with regard to the Continental Surveillance System and presented the operation of the system through a connection by internet. The presentation included the simulated entry of data from a country.

## **8. REPORT ON HEMISPHERIC CONFERENCE ON FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE IN HOUSTON, TEXAS, USA**

The third plenary session started with the report of Dr. Belotto on the Hemispheric Conference on FMD presenting a video on the impact of the disease on production and external trade. He informed that the objective of the meeting was to integrate all of America, reinforcing the commitment to eradicate the disease, and taking into consideration its importance to the traditionally disease-free countries. He mentioned commitments made by representatives of sectors present at the Conference, with regard to the preparation of a proposal for reorientation of PHEFA and the establishment of a fund to finance activities. He informed on the scheduling of meetings to discuss these commitments. It was then decided to form a group with public and private representatives of the six subregions of PHEFA which will meet on April 3, 2004 in Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

## **9. PROPOSAL FOR THE PROGRAM OF FMD ERADICATION OF BOLIVIA**

Dr. Salas spoke of the proposal for reorientation of the National Plan of Bolivia for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, 2004-2007. This plan is based on the characterization of animal production systems and the epidemiology of the disease. However, he mentioned critical features of the structure of SENASAG and instances of coordination with the private sector and with departmental administrative levels, which might affect the establishment of the plan. From his presentation, it is clear there is a need for institutional strengthening of the service to include reordering of technical posts, decentralization of handling of resources, strengthening of field services and establishment of the national system for zoonotic emergencies, to act in the improvement of the cattle registry, and assistance to vaccination, which includes subsistence peasant populations and animal concentrations. Other subprojects of the Plan were also mentioned in detail by Dr. Salas.

Dr. Oscar Domínguez, official representative of Peru, inquired if there is a date to solve the instability of the staff of the service. Dr. Salas informed a selection program is being implemented which will be finished in September. Dr. Ugarte considered this a serious plan that encompasses the whole FMD problem. However, the structure should also be suitable to deal with all the diseases under the responsibility of SENASAG. He reiterated the need of registry and identification of animals as well as

the characterization of internal mobilization flows and permanent sanitary education. He mentioned that the permanence of the service is important for the continuity of activities.

Dr. Castells remarked on the importance of the decision taken by the public and private sectors of Bolivia, although there are some doubts about the quality of information, such as vaccination coverage. He reiterated support from the regional livestock production sector to Bolivia.

Dr. Nogueira referred to talks between the private sectors of Brazil and Bolivia with the participation of PANAFTOSA and the coordination of the Program in Washington, to ensure the implementation of this plan and mentioned that the support of the private sector of Brazil would be available to Bolivia.

Dr. Hugo Corrales, official representative of Paraguay, gave some information on the scheduling of the Plan to control vaccination procedures and detailed the co-participative system at the local level. He informed that in May the border program will be continued, in accordance with the plan of action of PHEFA, with the participation of PAHO. Dr. Salas reiterated that similar meetings are scheduled with Brazil and other border countries.

Dr. Carlos Etcheverría inquired if the national plan has already ensured public and private resources. Dr. Salas informed about the existence of funds from the IDB and the PL480 of the USDA which will finance the plan during the next four years.

## 10. OTHER MATTERS

In the session of Various Matters, Dr. Juan Lubroth, Animal Health Officer of FAO, presented the “Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transborder Diseases of Animals” coordinated at world level by FAO, which aims to strengthen surveillance of diseases with impact on the economy and human health and to improve food safety of the countries. He presented antecedents of the creation of the TAD-INFO system and the GLOBAL EARLY WARNING SYSTEM (FAO/OIE/WHO) as mechanisms to strengthen the national veterinary services and especially their capacity to face emergencies. He also reiterated the need to develop alternative ways to fight and eradicate diseases which are not obligatorily based on the slaughter of animals. FAO and OIE have become associates to develop the system with the support of regional organizations of technical cooperation.

Dr. Franklin Clavel of MIDA of Panamá thanked for the invitation as observer country of COSALFA and spoke of the rapid recovery of the sanitary situation of FMD following recent events. He acknowledged the initiative of Bolivia and reiterated his commitment as Secretary of PANVET to support South American efforts towards eradication, as agreed at the conference in Houston.

As the last item of Various Matters, there was a discussion on the refusal of the Scientific Commission of OIE regarding requests for recognition of free zones with vaccination in Colombia and Brazil and of a free zone without vaccination in Peru. This decision was based on items 2.1.1 and 3.8.6 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code. For discussion of the matter between these countries, including the Southern Cone countries, it was proposed to create a working group to prepare an early document with supporting considerations presented by the region. Subsequently, a proposal of resolution was prepared for discussion at the plenary session.

Colombia immediately proposed to study the three situations and to establish a line of action – a working group for the proposals will be established and the members will be: Dr. Ricardo Maresca for Argentina; Dr. Olga Lucia for Colombia; Dr. Salomón Ortíz for Peru; Dr. Vicente Astudillo, as independent consultant, and a professional for Brazil, supported by the staff of PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO. The representative of Chile requested that information issuing from the meeting be sent to all the countries. At the closing of the session 12 proposals of Resolutions were presented for discussion and approval by the delegates. With regard to the host city for the XXXII Ordinary Meeting in 2005, the offer of the delegate of Peru of the city of Lima was unanimously accepted.

## **11. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS**

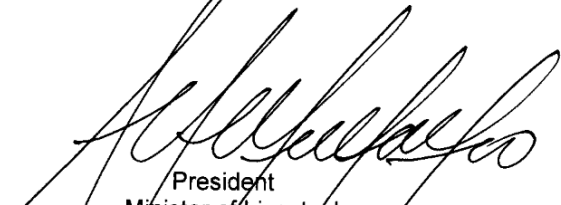
The Resolutions proposed during the Meeting were approved after putting them up for discussion and incorporating the corresponding modifications. The approved Resolutions are attached in Anex.

## **12. CLOSING CEREMONY**

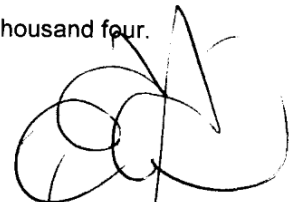
The closing ceremony was honored by the participation of the Constitutional President of the Republic of Bolivia, Carlos Mesa Gisbert, who reiterated all his efforts to eradicate at short term the disease from the Bolivian herds.

IN WITNESS WHERE OF, the Chairman of the Meeting, Eng. Diego Montenegro Ernst, Minister of Livestock, Crops and Peasant Related Matters, the Director of the Pan-American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA), Secretary ex officio of COSALFA and the Delegates of the official and livestock Sectors of the member countries, have signed the present final Report in Spanish, Portuguese and English, both texts being equality authentic.

Done in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in the two day of April, two thousand four.



President  
Minister of Livestock,  
Crops and Peasant Related Matters



Secretary ex officio  
Director of the Pan American  
Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center  
(PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO)



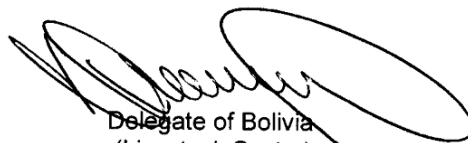
Delegate of Argentina  
(Official Sector)



Delegate of Argentina  
(Livestock Sector)



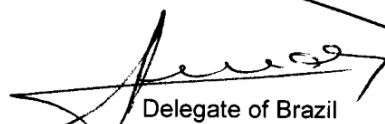
Delegate of Bolivia  
(Official Sector)




Delegate of Bolivia  
(Livestock Sector)



Delegate of Brazil  
(Official Sector)



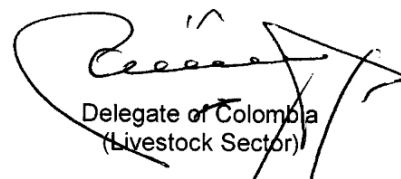
Delegate of Brazil  
(Livestock Sector)



Delegate of Chile  
(Official Sector)



Delegate of Colombia  
(Official Sector)



Delegate of Colombia  
(Livestock Sector)

Delegate of Ecuador  
(Official Sector)

Delegate of Guyana  
(Official Sector)

Delegate of Paraguay  
(Official Sector)

Delegate of Paraguay  
(Livestock Sector)

Delegate of Peru  
(Official Sector)

Delegate of Uruguay  
(Official Sector)

Delegate of Uruguay  
(Livestock Sector)

Delegate of Venezuela  
(Official Sector)

Delegate of Venezuela  
(Livestock Sector)



# XXXI COSALFA

Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia

April 1-2, 2004

## RESOLUTIONS



## RESOLUTION I

### Audits

THE XXXI ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

That PANAFTOSA complied with Resolution VII of COSALFA XXX regarding the training of a group of auditors, who perfected auditing guidelines and established a mechanism for diffusion of results, to extend this activity in the future to all the countries of the subcontinent.

### RESOLVES:

1. That member countries accept the general outlines of the guide and its regulation, in the manner they were presented, and establishes a 30-day period to issue their considerations on the document.
2. That special emphasis will be given to indications established in the regulations with regard to the chronogram of corrective measures, which will be followed up by PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO and communicated to the countries.
3. That the countries inform during the same period the manner and scope of the diffusion of the results of the audits.
4. That in the next cycle of audits priority be given to zones and regions of risk.
5. That delegation is made to PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO to conduct audits in all of South America.
6. That alternative funding sources be found to finance this activity.
7. To request PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO to hold a Training Seminar for professionals of the animal health services of the Andean Area.

(Approved by the plenary session  
on April 2, 2004)

## RESOLUTION II

### Development and implementation of the Plan of Action of PHEFA for 2004-2009

THE XXXI ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

§ That the Hemispheric Plan for Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease is the framework of reference for the definition and execution of national programs for the prevention, control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in the region;

§ That there is the political and technical commitment to reach the goal of eradication on the proposed date and that this has been reiterated at the Hemispheric Conference for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease held in Houston, Texas, USA, during March 3-4, 2004;

§ That in the region still persist endemic areas of Foot-and-Mouth Disease representing a permanent source of infection to the free areas and at the same time prevent the reaching of the eradication goals set forth by the PHEFA, and

§ That the differences in environmental and cultural conditions, and the availability of resources, including the level of sanitary education, affect progress of the countries to reach Foot-and-Mouth Disease eradication goals,

#### RESOLVES:

1. To recommend that the countries identify and carry out immediate adjustments in relationship to the weaknesses of the veterinary service system, as well as institutional, programmatic and financial adjustments in their national programs to attain the objectives of PHEFA within the set time frame.

2. That the countries, with the support of PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO, give priority to the revision and updating of epidemiological characterization at the national and regional level, in order to support differential action strategies, compatible with the final phase of PHEFA.

3. For the Amazon subregion and non-Amazon Brazil, to reiterate to Brazil, Guyana and Venezuela, with the presence of Colombia, the need to hold the technical meeting between the countries to strengthen common activities for the control and prevention of foot-and-mouth disease.

4. To request PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO to support Guyana in the intensive training of its professional and technical staff for surveillance activities and in diagnosis of vesicular diseases.

(Approved by the plenary session  
on April 2, 2004)

## RESOLUTION III

### National Plan for Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in the Republic of Bolivia 2004-2007

THE XXXI ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

§ That Bolivia, through the National Service of Agriculture and Livestock Health and Food Safety (SENASAG), has been carrying out the National Program of Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (PRONEFA), since 2001, within the framework of the Hemispheric Plan for Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease – PHEFA;

§ That results reached up to date show a significant advance which require support with complementary action towards their consolidation;

§ That the presentation of SENASAG at the XXXI COSALFA, referring to a 2004-2007 strategic plan for adjustments in the program has been considered positive by the delegates;

§ That, with the objective of supporting the implementation of the activities described in the Plan, the XXXI Ordinary Meeting of COSALFA held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra on April 1 and 2 of the current year,

#### RESOLVES:

1. To support the Plan presented by the National Service of Agriculture and Livestock Health and Food Safety for the period 2004-2007.
2. That the countries of COSALFA give support to the official and private sectors of Bolivia in the fulfillment and execution of the national plan.
3. To request PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO to analyze the Plan, presenting the necessary recommendations, and to give technical support for its complementation and follow-up.

(Approved by the plenary session  
on April 2, 2004)

## RESOLUTION IV

### Hemispheric Conference for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease

THE XXXI ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

§ That the Hemispheric Conference for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, held in Houston, Texas, USA, during March 3-4 2004, sponsored jointly by PAHO and the USDA, to comply with Resolution COHEFA9 R2 of the Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease;

§ That the Ministers of Health and Agriculture, representatives of cattlemen's associations and other members of the livestock productive chain, international organizations, universities and veterinarians' associations present at the Conference, agreed to establish a continental strategic alliance for the final stage of foot-and-mouth disease eradication, commitment set forth in the Declaration of Houston, and

§ The benefit of foot-and-mouth disease eradication in the Americas to the free zones as well as and infected zones, in terms of decreasing the risk of infection for the free countries, facilitating trade of animals and products and at the same time improving life conditions of the more needy populations, and fulfilling goals of the millennium of the United Nations,

#### RESOLVES:

To endorse the commitments agreed upon at the Conference, which are set forth in the Declaration of Houston, and to apply all efforts towards their fulfillment within the stated time frame.

(Approved by the plenary session  
on April 2, 2004)

## RESOLUTION V

### Working Group for the Analysis of Rules of the Code Regarding Foot-and-Mouth Disease

THE XXXI ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

§ That the countries of the Region have developed processes for the regionalization of their territories within the framework of their respective foot-and-mouth disease eradication programs and that they were recorded and presented to the OIE to obtain official recognition as free zones, and

§ That recently, after analysis by the Scientific Committee, OIE requested additional information from the three countries to explain or complement antecedents showing non-infection,

#### RESOLVES:

1. That the Working Group formed during this COSALFA by representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Peru, should meet with the coordination of PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO on April 6 and 8 at PANAFTOSA's headquarters to carry out:

- a) A study of the concepts of the Code (2.1.1.1) and (A.3.8.6) on infection and demonstration of its absence;
- b) An analysis of the interpretation of the Scientific Commission of OIE on the matter;
- c) A proposal of interpretation to demonstrate non-infection based on epidemiologic aspects, as well as production characteristics of the region and features of the activities carried out by the veterinary service systems in the region;
- d) A proposal for short-term solution to the problems of interpretation based on the current text of the Code, and another proposal including modifications to the Code to prevent its contradictions and discouragement at eventual interpretations that might lead to failure of efforts. The group will also evaluate the reach of diagnostic tests in relationship to its use when complying with the new requirements of the Code.

2. That the Group present its preliminary work at a meeting to be held before its presentation to OIE, during the Seminar on Diseases Controllable by Vaccination, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, April 13-18 of the current year.

3. That PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO, representing and together with the countries, present the result of the work of the group.

(Approved by the plenary session  
on April 2, 2004)

## RESOLUTION VI

### Harmonization of procedures of laboratory diagnosis and establishment of systems of quality management

THE XXXI ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

§ The advances of foot-and-mouth disease eradication in South America during the last decade;

§ The present international regulation on Foot-and-Mouth Disease, established in Chapter 2.1.1. of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of OIE;

§ The need to demonstrate quality levels in diagnosis laboratories guaranteeing the correct performance of laboratory tests to comply with the new demands and requirements of the new Terrestrial Animal Health Code of OIE;

§ The need to harmonize the different quality levels of the laboratories of the region, which requires an integrated approach of diagnosis laboratories to harmonize and adequate laboratory results, and

§ The conclusions and recommendations of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Inter-Laboratory Group, to be attached to the Final Report of this COSALFA,

#### RESOLVES:

1. To advance the development of Systems of Quality Management of the laboratories of the region towards the establishment of norms ISO/IEC 17025:2000.

2. That PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO systematize and diffuse for analysis the programs of External Quality Control of diagnostic tests relevant to the eradication programs.

3. To give official support to the Inter-laboratory group, coordinated by PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO, and established by Resolution of the XXX COSALFA initially with four countries (Colombia, Peru, Argentina and Brazil), and expand it to other interested countries to support activities to:

- a) guarantee harmonization, equivalence and transparency in the use of diagnostic tools.
- b) support and bolster development to comply with requirements of the Code and the new demands of diagnosis required by the epidemiologic transition of the region.

4. That PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO systematize the technical and administrative framework for the production of complete kits of I-ELISA 3ABC-EITB, extrapolating the focus of complete kits to other diagnostic tests.

(Approved by the plenary session  
on April 2, 2004)



## RESOLUTION VII

### International Seminar: “Regionalization in Programs of Eradication of Diseases and in the facilitation of International Trade”

THE XXXI ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

The recommendations of the International Seminar on the need to revise, update and strengthen the process of regionalization of foot-and-mouth disease, prepared as the basis for strategic support of the Subregional and National Projects of Eradication,

#### RESOLVES:

1. That the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, in coordination with the countries, prepare a harmonized methodology for regionalization, to optimize efforts being carried out by the official Health Services, in compliance with norms established by OIE.
2. To recommend that the Health Services and the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center incorporate regionalization as a priority activity of national and technical cooperation programs, respectively.

(Approved by the plenary session  
on April 2, 2004)

## RESOLUTION VIII

### Joint FAO-PAHO Projects

THE XXXI ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

§ That FAO and PAHO have signed an agreement of cooperation;

§ That within the framework of the agreement a group of health projects were developed to improve epidemiological surveillance; to establish a commission for monitoring, evaluation and auditing; to strengthen border programs, and

§ That these projects were sent to the countries for their analysis,

#### RESOLVES:

1. That the countries communicate to FAO their agreement and interest to develop the projects as soon as possible, and once approved, to request FAO and PAHO to take the necessary measures for these projects to become a reality in epidemiologically strategic areas as soon as possible.

2. That the resources considered necessary by the projects be incorporated within the initiatives of GIEFA.

(Approved by the plenary session on April 2, 2004)

## RESOLUTION IX

### Cost/benefit relationship of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Programs

THE XXXI ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering,

1. The presentation of a historical series of information on investments made by the public and private sectors for eradication of FMD;
2. The importance for the countries of the region to evaluate the cost/benefit relationship in investments for eradication of the disease,

#### RESOLVES:

That the countries, besides continuing to provide information on public and private investments for foot-and-mouth disease eradication programs, also take into account the evaluation of benefits produced in the country due to the improved sanitary situation of foot-and-mouth disease.

(Approved by the plenary session  
on April 2, 2004)

## RESOLUTION X

### Information and Epidemiological Surveillance Continental System

THE XXXI ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

§ That in compliance with Resolution V of the XXX Ordinary Meeting of COSALFA, the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center carried out the training of SIVCONT users in the South American countries;

§ That parallel to the present guidelines for information to the Continental Epidemiological Surveillance and Information System, the testing stage in production of the SIVCONT has started, and

§ That the use of SIVCONT by the countries is essential to evaluate its functioning and to perfect it,

#### RESOLVES:

1. To acknowledge advances made in the development and implementation of the SIVCONT;
2. To urge the countries to use the system and to offer suggestions to perfect it;
3. That PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO schedule a meeting in September 2004 with the South American countries to evaluate the functioning of the SIVCONT;
4. That PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO coordinate action with OIRSA and other international organisms towards the use of SIVCONT by the Central American countries and México.

(Approved by the plenary session on April 2, 2004)

## **RESOLUTION XI**

### **Designation of the Host City of COSALFA XXXII**

THE XXXI ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

That the Republic of Peru offered to host the XXXII Ordinary Meeting of COSALFA,

#### **RESOLVES:**

To designate the city of Lima, Peru, as the host city of the XXXII Ordinary Meeting of COSALFA in March 2005

(Approved by the plenary session  
on April 2, 2004)

## **RESOLUTION XII**

### **Acknowledgements**

THE XXXI ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

The excellent conditions provided by the official authorities and by the representatives of the private sector of Bolivia, especially the attention given by the staff of the National Agriculture and Livestock Service and Food Safety – SENASAG and the Cattlemen’s Federation of Santa Cruz – FEGASACRUZ, for the holding of the XXXI Ordinary Meeting of COSALFA,

### **RESOLVES:**

To thank the Republic of Bolivia through its Constitutional President, Carlos Mesa Gisbert; the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Eng. Diego Montenegro; SENASAG; FEGASACRUZ and all the Bolivian productive chain, represented by the Confederation of Cattlemen of Bolivia – CONGABOL, for the kind hospitality and warmth that they received in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

(Approved by the plenary session on April 2, 2004)

# XXXI COSALFA

Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia

Abril 1-2, 2004

## ANNEXES





**SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE  
XXXI ORDINARY MEETING**

Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia

April 1-2, 2004

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**AGENDA**

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**Thursday, April 1**

- 09:00 - Opening of the Meeting
- 09:30 - Report of the Secretariat
- 10:30 - Discussion of the Report
- 11:00 - Interval
- 11:15 - Situation of national and subregional programs. River Plate Basin.  
Andean Area. Amazon Area and Brazil
- 12:00 - Discussion
- 12:30 - Lunch
- 14:00 - Report on follow-up of emergencies in Bolivia, Paraguay, Argentina  
and Venezuela
- 14:30 - Discussion
- 15:00 - Report on Auditing Seminar
- 15:30 - Discussion
- 16:00 - Interval
- 16:15 - Report of Seminar Pre-COSALFA
- 16:45 - Discussion
- 17:00 - Demonstration of SIVCONT
- 17:30 - Discussion

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**Friday, April 2**

- 09:00 - Report on Hemispheric Conference of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, Houston, Texas, USA
- 09:30 - Discussion
- 10:00 - Interval
- 11:00 - Proposal for Program of Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease of Bolivia
- 11:30 - Other Matters
- 13:00 - Lunch
- 14:30 - Presentation and discussion of Resolutions
- 16:30 - Closing of the Meeting

## 1<sup>st</sup> MEETING OF THE INTER-LABORATORIES GROUP

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Working Group convened to attend the IV Recommendation of the XXX Ordinary Meeting of COSALFA, ratified at the IX COHEFA and 9<sup>th</sup> RIMSA, has analyzed the various features of the need to harmonize the use in the region of seroepidemiologic tools for the active surveillance of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in the form of complete kits for the detection of antibodies against non-capsidal proteins (NCP).

During the meeting of the group the critical points of importance in the region were identified. From the work carried out and from discussions on the experience of the countries with these tools, the following conclusions are presented:

- a. The need to work with complete kits is ratified;
- b. Recognition is made of the need of guidelines for the harmonic use in the region of diagnostic kits based on the detection of antibodies against non-capsidal proteins (NCP), to strengthen the control system of internal and external quality.
- c. The I-ELISA 3 ABC/EITB is considered the reference test for the region to detect antibodies against NCP of the FMD virus.
- d. The study made during the meeting of the working group of the comparative performance of the kits which are commercially available to detect antibodies against NCP of the FMD virus, evaluated with sera from the collection of PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO and also with sera provided by the countries participating in this meeting, indicates that there are considerable differences between the comparative performance of the kits that were studied.
- e. The experience of the countries of the region indicates there are conventional methods to purify vaccines that do not induce interference in tests used in active surveillance, which could mislead their interpretation, including those showing the best sensibility performance.
- f. The need is acknowledged to have available panels of bovine sera in sufficient number and volume to compare performance parameters of the different kits.
- g. The need is acknowledged to form sera panels for other species (ovine, caprine, buffaloes, porcine) to compare performance parameters of the different kits.
- h. PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO is requested to collaborate in the development and transfer of methodology for the detection and quantification of non-capsidal proteins during the process of vaccine production.

**Considering:**

- a. The advances in FMD eradication in South America as a result of the efforts of the countries in the regionalized fight against the disease;
- b. The modifications made in the international regulation of FMD, as established in Chapter 2.1.1. of the Zoosanitary Code of OIE and the development of guidelines on minimum criteria of surveillance which requires reorientation of epidemiological surveillance in the countries;
- c. The above-mentioned conclusions;

**The Working Group recommends:**

1. That the countries participating in this meeting form a basic group to continue activities to establish guidelines for the harmonic use in the region of kits for the detection of antibodies against NCP. This group will request other countries to join it, according to advances made and as needed.
2. That the countries use complete kits with algorithm of tests following validated procedures, together with the pertinent documentation, and guaranteeing a performance comparable to the I-ELISA 3ABC/EITB reference system for the region.
3. Reiteration is made of the recommendation that all national organisms for vaccine control evaluate all the series and, if any interference is detected, to take the corresponding action.
4. To request PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO to consider the possibility to express the results of the I-ELISA 3ABC/EITB test in positive percentages, without altering the characteristics of the test performance.
5. To request the countries of the region to collaborate with PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO in the preparation of the standard reference sera for the I-ELISA 3ABC/EITB system, as required by the OIE.
6. To request the countries of the region to collaborate with PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO in the formation of panels of sera, including bovines, ovines, caprines and buffaloes, which should be available to the countries of the region for use in comparative tests of performance of the kits.
7. That PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO ensure the availability and prompt provision of I-ELISA 3ABC/EITB kits at prices accessible to the economies of the countries of the region and also to urge the maintenance of an emergency stock of these kits through the strengthening of the production structure.
8. That the countries aim all the required efforts to collaborate in the fulfillment of the agenda proposed by PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO for requests of I-ELISA 3ABC/EITB kits, to ensure their availability and opportune provision.



## XXXI COSALFA

Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia - 01-02 de abril de 2004

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