

**RESOLUTION No. 716**

**THE ROLE OF ANIMAL HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AMERICAS IN GLOBAL AND  
REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-fourth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The document “Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development in the Americas: Concept Note on Strengthening the Role of the Americas’ Animal Health Services in Global and Regional Food Security”,

CONSIDERING:

That the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), via Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 550 (XXII-O/23), acknowledged that “pests and diseases pose a permanent threat that affects or stands to affect the countries of the Americas” and that “agricultural health plays a key role in guaranteeing ‘safe and healthy food’ for everyone and particularly in strengthening food and nutrition security, by ensuring the ideal balance, quantity and quality of food of both animal and plant origin”;

That, pursuant to that resolution, the international seminar “Animal Health and its Contribution to the Transformation of Food Systems in the Americas” was held on 11 April 2024 in Asuncion, Paraguay, with the support of the Government of that country, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)”;

That ministers and senior agricultural authorities from countries in the Americas, directors of official health services and representatives of multilateral organizations participating in the seminar agreed on the need to quickly shore up animal health surveillance systems against new threats, with a view to consolidating the position of the region as a major global producer and exporter of protein;

That modernizing and strengthening official animal health services is vital to ensuring hemispheric and global food and nutrition security, which will depend in great measure on the operationalization of the One Health approach;

That, currently, animal health services are facing various challenges, among them: a) the avian influenza health emergency that poses a serious threat to the global poultry industry; b) African swine fever, a disease of animal origin that, although not a threat to human health,

is devastating for poultry production and negatively impacts the economies of the countries; and c) the re-emergence of the New World screwworm in Central America for the first time in almost 25 years;

That IICA, in coordination with national authorities and in partnership with other international and regional organizations involved in animal health, has been carrying out actions to prevent and combat these threats; and

That the Member States of the Institute have held fruitful discussions at this Executive Committee Meeting, exchanging ideas on the need to bolster the strategic role of animal health in the countries of the Americas, to ensure food security and sustainable development, and to reinforce actions to tackle the three aforementioned threats,

#### RESOLVES:

1. To emphasize the importance of strengthening official animal health services, by incorporating new strategies, tools and procedures to improve the accuracy of risk assessment, enable the early detection of these risks and facilitate the efficient use of public and private resources to address them.
2. To increase support for the official veterinary services of countries in the Americas, including by undertaking new technical cooperation actions for the prevention, control and eradication of avian influenza (AI), African swine fever (ASF) and the New World screwworm (NWS), particularly through institutional modernization, digitalization and the strengthening of surveillance, intelligence and rapid response systems.
3. To coordinate and implement, together with other competent international organizations, especially the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), regional and hemispheric efforts geared towards building capacities to prevent and respond to emergencies caused by AI, ASF and NWS, based on collaboration with the public and private sectors to introduce the required regulations, policies and measures.
4. To create forums that enable ministers to discuss, keep abreast of and increase awareness of issues related to cross-border diseases, including AI, ASF and NWS, and that support preventive actions, by strengthening surveillance and preparedness to provide animal health solutions in the IICA Member States.
5. To support intersectoral coordination (agriculture, the environment and public health) and cooperation between competent international organizations, as well as public and private entities at the hemispheric, national and local levels, given the critical importance of both factors for the implementation of a One Health approach in rural communities, involving producers, local governments and other stakeholders, as well

as for the formulation and execution of integrated and effective public policies on this issue.

6. To thank and commend the Government of Paraguay for successfully organizing the international seminar “Animal Health and its Contribution to the Transformation of Food Systems in the Americas”.