Rabies Consultative Meeting
Geneva, 16-17 October 2007

REPORT
On 16-17 October 2007, several experts on rabies, representatives of nine countries and four experts that have been chosen to act as an independent panel (for list of participants, see Annex I) met to discuss nine different project proposals to prevent human rabies through dog rabies control and eventual elimination, and select three of them to be included into a Letter of Inquiry (LoI) to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Ten countries have been selected in May 2007, during an informal meeting of the rabies experts in Paris, to develop a rabies elimination “show case” project. Those countries, together with a rabies expert acting as a “champion”, developed project proposals, which were then presented on 16 October 2007.

**Aim of the meeting**

To select through a transparent and independent process three candidate countries, which project proposals will be included into a LoI submitted for funding to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

**Process**

Each of the nine country representative presented their country’s project proposal to the experts and the review panel. Afterwards they were questioned by the panel members for 15 minutes and then by the rest of the participants (for the exact process, see Annex II).

To evaluate the project proposals the review panel members had a standardized evaluation form with seven criteria for grading. On the basis of those grades the panel made their final deliberations at the end of the first day (16 October 2007) and selected three candidate countries.

The second day, 17 October 2007, was solely reserved for the rabies experts to discuss about the process of the outline, content of and the process of developing the LoI.

**Outcome**

Three countries have been chosen by the panel on the first day of the meeting (16 October 2007), which are the following:

1. United Republic of Tanzania
2. Republic of South Africa
3. Philippines

Further, the rabies consultative group of experts decided on the aim, objectives and outline of the LoI to be sent to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation at the beginning of November.
ANNEX I

List of participants

Country representatives

CHINA: Dr Guo-Dong LIANG, Professor and Vice-Director, Institute for Viral Disease Control and Prevention, 100 Yin Xin St. Xuan Wu Qu, Beijing 100052 (Tel. +8610 6351 0124, Fax. +8610 6353 2053, Email - gdliang@hotmail.com) and Dr Qing TANG, Professor and Head of Rabies Section (Tel. +8610 6353 9777, Fax. +8610 6353 2053, Email - qtang04@sina.com)

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**TUNISIA:** Dr MONDHER Béjaoui, Sous-Directeur de l’Épidémiologie et de la Lutte contre les Maladies transmissibles, Ministère de la Santé publique, Direction des Soins de Santé de Base (DSSB), 31 rue Khartoum, 1002 Tunis-Belvédère (Tel. +216 71 782 848, Fax. +216 71 789 679, Email - mondher.bejaoui@rns.tn)

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*Invited experts*

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Review Panel

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO): Dr Katinka DE BALOGH, Response Manager, Crisis Management Centre, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Via delle Terme di Caracalla, Rome 00153, Italy (Tel. +39 06 57051, Fax. +39 06 570 3152, Email - Katinka.DeBalogh@fao.org)

World Health Organization (WHO) (Chairperson): Dr Paul Gully, Adviser to Assistant Director-General, Communicable Diseases, World Health Organization, Avenue Appia, 1211 Genève 27, Switzerland (Tel. +41 22 791 2355, Fax. +41 22 791 4752, Email - gullyp@who.int)

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World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA): Dr Ray Butcher, Chief Veterinary Adviser, World Society for Protection of Animals, 89 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TP, UK (Tel. +44 20 7587 5000, Fax. +44 20 7793 0208, Email - ray.butcher31@tiscali.co.uk)

Coordinator

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WHO Secretariat

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* Invited but unable to attend
ANNEX II

Agenda

Tuesday, 16 October 2007 (Room C.102)

08:30 Opening  Dr François Meslin,  Dr Paul Gully
08:45 Introduction of country representatives, panel members and rabies experts

PRESENTATION OF COUNTRY PROPOSALS, each:

- 15 mins presentation by country representative
- 15 mins questions and answers (panel/country representative)
- 15 mins open discussion

09:00 Project Proposal of China  Dr Guo-Dong Liang
09:45 Project Proposal of Mexico  Dr Carlos Alvarez Lucas

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 Project Proposal of Morocco  Dr Abderrahman El Abrak
11:45 Project Proposal of the Philippines  Dr Mario Baquilod

12:30 Lunch break

13:30 Project Proposal of South Africa  Mr Kevin Le Roux
14:15 Project Proposal of Sri Lanka  Dr P. A. L. Harischandra
15:00 Project Proposal of United Republic of Tanzania  Dr Pascal Mujuni

15:45 Coffee break

16:15 Project Proposal of Tunisia  Dr Mondher Béjaoui
17:00 Project Proposal of Viet Nam  Nguyen Thi Hong HAHN

17:45 Final deliberations of the panel  Dr Katinka De Balogh,  Dr Paul Gully,  Dr Gideon Brückner,  Dr Ray Butcher
Wednesday, 17 October 2007 (Room C.102)

09:00  Introduction  
       Dr F.-X. Meslin

09:15  Letter of Inquiry for the Melinda & Bill Gates Foundation

Decisions to be made on:

- Goal
- Timeframe
- Number of proposals
- Budget
- Organizational capacity

13:00  Lunch break

14:00  Letter of Inquiry continued

Side meeting (1 hour)  
Monoclonal Antibody Cocktail  
(for heads of WHO/CC only)  
M. P. Kieny

15:30  Coffee Break

16:00  Conclusions and Recommendations