

INTERNATIONAL NGOS SUPPORTING THE OIE TO IMPROVE ANIMAL WELFARE GLOBALLY

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The paper will look at the progress that has been made since the Second OIE Global Conference in Cairo, in 2008, and the challenges, and impediments to progress, which remain to be addressed.

OIE members are responsible for implementing the OIE animal welfare standards and ensuring that these standards are followed by relevant stakeholders. There are a large number of such stakeholders so the challenge of implementation and enforcement is not to be underestimated. Animal welfare NGOs are periodically made aware of situations where these standards are breached. NGOs, like governments and the OIE itself, are keen to minimise such breaches through effective enforcement by appropriate actions of relevant authorities. NGOs can assist government and veterinary authorities in addressing issues arising in these situations and work with such authorities to ensure they are avoided in future.

WSPA and other NGOs have worked with governments to provide technical assistance and support for animal welfare training programmes which have been acknowledged to contribute significantly towards achievement of improved animal welfare standards. WSPA's slaughter training programmes in China and Brazil are good examples. NGOs can also provide practical support in identifying the key aspects of animal welfare which need to be addressed in order to implement and enforce OIE standards. It is noted that little progress has been made by OIE members to set up Regional Animal Welfare Strategies. The exception has been the Asia, Far East and Oceania Region. Animal welfare NGOs are keen to provide practical support to OIE regions in developing such strategies which would lead to more effective standards implementation.

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