REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

Food Security Committee under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

Definition, Status, and Current Situation Regarding the Circulation of Veterinary Products in the Republic of Tajikistan

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Distinguished participants and members of the presidium, esteemed colleagues, dear guests, representatives of government bodies, international organizations, and scientific and educational institutions, as well as manufacturers and suppliers of veterinary medicines!

Good afternoon. It is a great honor for me to welcome you on behalf of the Food Security Committee under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan to today's event, which is dedicated to one of the most pressing and important issues in the veterinary sector: the circulation, state control, and assurance of the quality and safety of veterinary medicines.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the event organizers and the Georgian side for the warm welcome, hospitality, and the arrangements made for our meeting.

The Food Security Committee is the central executive body responsible for developing and implementing a unified state policy on food safety. It conducts its activities in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Tajikistan, acts of the President and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, other regulatory legal acts, and international legal instruments recognized by the Republic of Tajikistan. By collaborating with other ministries, agencies, local executive bodies, and various enterprises and institutions, the Committee develops and implements a unified state policy in the agricultural sector—including crop production, livestock farming, and other areas of agricultural production.

Today, it is becoming increasingly evident that human health cannot be viewed in isolation from animal health, the state of the environment, and the socio-economic conditions in which society lives.

Veterinary medicines play a vital role in ensuring animal health, preventing and treating infectious and non-infectious diseases, and supporting the sustainable development of the livestock sector. The health of animals, the quality of animal-derived products, and ultimately the country's food security

depend directly on the quality, efficacy, safety, and proper use of these products.

In the current environment, the regulation of the veterinary drug supply chain is becoming increasingly important. The growth of the livestock sector, the rising volume of production and movement of animals and animal products, and the risk of infectious disease outbreaks necessitate the improvement of the state veterinary control system.

Particular attention must be paid to ensuring that only high-quality, effective, and safe veterinary drugs—those that have undergone state registration and are authorized for use in accordance with the law—are used within the Republic of Tajikistan.

Equally important is ensuring oversight at every stage of the veterinary drug supply chain: from production, state registration, importation, storage, and transportation to final sale and use in veterinary practice.

At the same time, it is essential to strengthen controls regarding storage conditions, expiration dates, labeling requirements, and documentation, while preventing the sale and use of unregistered, falsified, counterfeit, or expired veterinary drugs.

The rational use of veterinary medicines, particularly antibiotics, warrants special attention. The improper and uncontrolled use of antibacterial drugs can contribute to the development and spread of antimicrobial resistance. This poses a threat not only to animal health but also to public health.

In this context, the "One Health" principle plays a vital role, fostering close collaboration among the veterinary, public health, food safety, and environmental protection sectors. An effective system for the oversight of veterinary medicines also requires close cooperation among government agencies, veterinary professionals, manufacturers, importers, distributors, business entities, research institutions, and international partners.

Distinguished colleagues,

Today's event offers an excellent opportunity to openly discuss existing challenges, share experiences, and formulate practical proposals for further improving the system governing the circulation of veterinary medicines in our country.

Particular importance is attached to discussions regarding the improvement of the regulatory framework, the state registration of veterinary medicines, the strengthening of laboratory quality control, the enhancement of oversight systems for their circulation, and the elevation of the professional responsibility of all participants in this process.

These measures are of particular relevance given the emergence of new infectious threats, climate change, rising antimicrobial resistance among microorganisms, and the need to strengthen prevention and epidemiological surveillance systems.

Pandemic preparedness and effective responses to emergency and critical situations require close cross-sectoral cooperation, coordination of efforts, and rapid information exchange among all stakeholders.

Amidst climate change and a tense epizootic and epidemiological situation regarding zoonotic diseases, the authenticity and quality of veterinary medicines are becoming increasingly critical. It is vital today to unite the efforts of specialists across various sectors to prevent the circulation of counterfeit products, curb the spread of infectious diseases, and respond effectively to emerging challenges.

Diseases of particular concern include dangerous animal infections such as brucellosis, tuberculosis, anthrax, sheep and goat pox, peste des petits ruminants (PPR), and rabies.

Sporadic outbreaks—particularly of anthrax and rabies—in agricultural settings and among the general population can cause significant economic losses, necessitating improvements in control and prevention measures. In our work, we strive to enhance veterinary cooperation in accordance with international standards regarding veterinary-sanitary requirements, risk management and mitigation in the trade of livestock and animal

products, and the handling of veterinary medicines among the region's states; we also support all related initiatives planned by the World Organisation for Animal Health.

I am confident that the outcomes of today's discussion will help define specific areas for future action and contribute to improving the effectiveness of state veterinary control, protecting animal health, ensuring the safety of animal products, and strengthening the food security of the Republic of Tajikistan.

On behalf of the Food Security Committee under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, I would like to once again thank all participants for their interest, cooperation, and contributions to the development of the veterinary sector. I wish everyone productive work, engaging discussions, fresh ideas, and successful collaboration. May the results of today's meeting serve to improve the health of the population, animals, and the environment in our region.

Thank you for your attention, and I wish you all a successful meeting