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Brazil

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Western Hemisphere Conference on Avian Influenza

2005

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Report Highlights:

Representatives of American nations met in Brasilia, during November 30 - December 2, 2005 at a conference on surveillance and prevention of Avian Influenza. A Declaration of Brasilia called for a political and financial compromise to prevent an outbreak of Avian Influenza in the Western Hemisphere.

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The Hemispheric Conference on the Surveillance and Prevention of Avian Influenza held in Brasilia, November 30-December 2, 2005 brought together an array of government officials and scientists, as well as industry and businesses representatives to address important issues related to the development of national plans for the surveillance and prevention of Avian Influenza (AI).

The specific objectives of the meeting were (1) to review, analyze, and disseminate global and hemispheric knowledge of Avian Influenza (AI) and the risk to humans of a pandemic, with the overall goal of forging a regional alliance; and, (2) to discuss the basis of a multi sectoral public-private plans for the surveillance and prevention of avian influenza in the Americas.

The Conference was organized and sponsored by the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (MAPA), the Pan American Health Organization of the World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), the Pan-American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA), the World Organization of Animal Health (OIE), the Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations (FAO), The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Brazilian Poultry Producers Association (UBA), and the Brazilian Poultry Packers and Exporters Association (ABEF).

The Declaration of Brasilia, released on December 2, 2005 called for the governments of the Western Hemisphere to compromise political, technical, and financially in the implementation of national and regional action plans that can address the current risk presented by Avian Influenza and prevent possible pandemics, such as an outbreak of bird flu.

A working group will be created with the objective of developing strategies and essential components for a national plan. The working group will have the participation of the Inter American Sanitary Committee on Poultry (CISA), with representatives of the public sector. As per the declaration of Brasilia, any outbreak of Avian Influenza in the region will be communicated through the normal channels of the World Health Organization (OIE) to avoid any unnecessary restrictions.

According to Brazil's Minister of Agriculture, the Americas account for 47 percent of the world poultry production and nearly 60 percent of poultry exports, and Brazil is a leading producer and exporter. He also announced that Brazil would launch by December 15, 2005 a national plan to regionalize production and marketing of poultry. This measure would allow a better control of measures to prevent bird flu outbreaks.

A copy of the Declaration of Brasilia can be found in the following site: <http://www.iica.int>