



GLOBAL ELIMINATION OF DOG-MEDIATED HUMAN RABIES

the time is
now!



Report of the Rabies Global Conference
10–11 December 2015
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Conference organized by



in collaboration with



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

with support of



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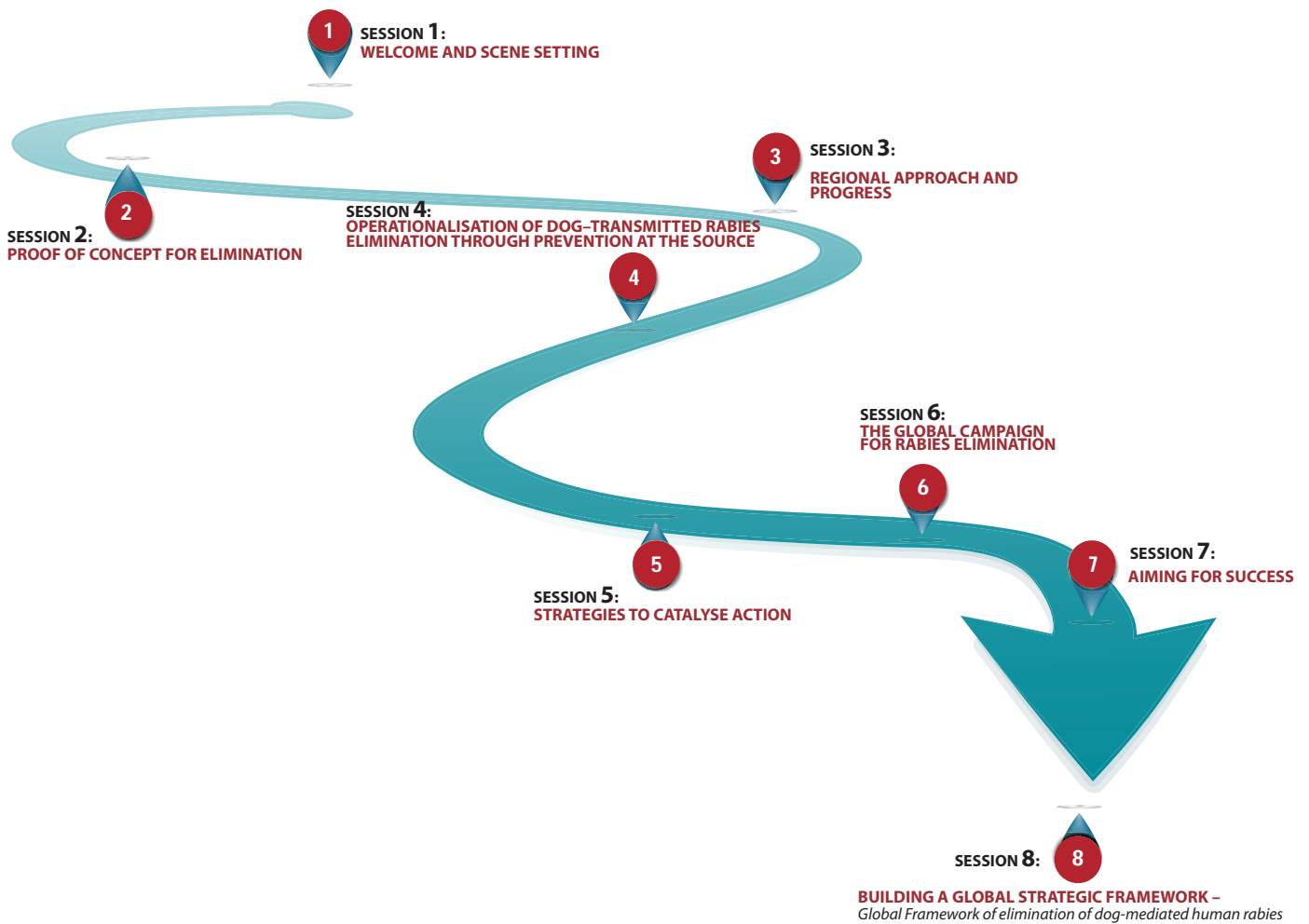
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Conference agenda

Global Elimination of Dog-mediated Human Rabies: *The Time is Now*



Background and conference objectives

Rabies remains an under-reported neglected zoonosis with a case-fatality rate of almost 100% in humans and animals. Dog-mediated human rabies causes tens of thousands of human deaths annually despite being 100% preventable. More than 95% of human cases are caused by the bite of a rabies-infected dog. Dog-mediated human rabies disproportionately affects rural communities, particularly children, and economically disadvantaged areas of Africa and Asia, where awareness of the disease and access to appropriate post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) can be limited or non-existent. Unlike for many other zoonoses, the appropriate tools to eliminate dog-mediated human rabies already exist. Dog-mediated human rabies can be eliminated at source by vaccinating dogs, in conjunction with dog bite prevention, bite management, raising public awareness and improved access to prompt post-exposure treatment.

It is in this context that the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and supported by the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC), organized the Global Conference on “Global elimination of dog-mediated human rabies: the time is now,” in Geneva, Switzerland on 10–11 December 2015.

The conference convened key participants from ministries of health and veterinary services, national rabies coordinators from participant countries, experts from the veterinary and the human health sectors and international organizations, policy-makers, nongovernmental organizations, donors and the private sector (see Annex 1).



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The objectives of the conference were:

- to disseminate the results of the proof of concept for the elimination of dog-mediated human rabies in different settings, and explore expansion and sustainability into other endemic areas;
- to build support and the case for investment to progress towards the elimination of dog-mediated human rabies from national, regional, global and other stakeholders including the private sector;
- to promote a “One Health” intersectoral collaborative approach between the human and animal health and other sectors; and
- to shape the forward vision agenda with shared purpose in collaboration with donors and stakeholders for the elimination of dog-mediated human rabies.

The conference built on the outcomes of a meeting on human and dog rabies vaccines and immunoglobulins (Geneva, 12–13 October 2015).¹ A Global Framework for the elimination of dog-mediated human rabies prepared from the outcomes of the meeting was presented at the conference for further input and refinement.

The conference included PowerPoint presentations, facilitated panel discussions, and open forum question and answer sessions designed to engage participants in the sharing of information, success stories and experiences. The abstracts and presentations are available on the OIE website.²

This report provides an overview of the activities and areas of discussion at the conference, key messages and major outcomes to advance the rabies elimination agenda.

// **Think big,
start small,
scale fast** //

Session 1 Welcome and scene-setting

The objective of the first session was to acknowledge the high-level leadership support for the elimination of dog-mediated human rabies and the One Health approach.

Co-chairs Brian Evans (OIE) and Bernadette Abela-Ridder (WHO) welcomed participants and opened the conference. WHO Director-General Margaret Chan and OIE Director-General Bernard Vallat addressed the conference, followed by remarks by the WHO Department for Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases Director Dirk Engels, the FAO Director of Animal Production and Health Berhe Tekola, the Institut Pasteur Senior Global Affairs Advisor to the Director-General Nadia Khelef, the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) Executive Director Louis Nel, and the European Commission Veterinary Officer Moritz Klemm. The OIE Director-General Bernard Vallat delivered the keynote address: dog-mediated human rabies elimination is feasible.

Brian Evans presented a “start-up” version of the Global Framework as a starting point for input by the participants

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