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**Report of WOA Regional Commissions meetings held during
the 91st General Session**

[Administrative Working Document]

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**Report of the Meeting of the
Regional Commission for Africa**

[Administrative Working Document]



Session 1 (virtual)

1. The Regional Commission for Africa met by videoconference on 21 May 2024, at 1:00 p.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 84 participants, including Delegates from 29 Members of the Commission, 5 observers, and representatives from 16 International and Regional Organisations:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Congo (Rep. of the), Congo (Dem. Rep. of the), Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Togo and Tunisia.

Observers: Coalition of African Animal Welfare Organisations (CAAWO), Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), ReAct Africa.

International/regional organisations: African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), African Union Panafrican Veterinary Vaccines Centre (AU-PANVAC), Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines (GALVmed), Economic Commission for Livestock, Meat and Fisheries (CEBEVIRHA), European Commission (EC), Common Market for Eastern and South Africa (COMESA), Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), World Bank (WB), World Health Organization (WHO).

2. The Meeting was chaired by Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela, President of the Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, accompanied by Dr Karim Tounkara, Regional Representative for Africa.

Adoption of the Agenda

3. The Agenda, described in the [Annex](#), was unanimously adopted.

Analysis and evaluation of WOAHA's institutional, technical, and financial governance

4. Dr François Caya, WOAHA Chief of Staff, introduced Mr Eelco Szabo, a legal and governance consultant and part of a consortium mandated by WOAHA to undertake what is commonly referred to as the external review of the WOAHA Basic Texts.
5. Mr Szabo, who has extensive experience in legal and governance frameworks across various international organisations, presented the in-depth analysis and review of the governance structures and processes of the Organisation, reflected in the General Session working document [91GS/Adm-13](#) titled 'Analysis and evaluation of the institutional, technical, and financial governance of WOAHA'. This external review, conducted over nine months, meticulously examined the foundational treaty, Basic Texts, numerous resolutions, and conducted interviews and workshops with members of WOAHA's governance bodies and relevant officials, including the Council. This comprehensive approach helped to understand the historical and current operational frameworks and identify areas for potential improvement in institutional, technical and financial governance.

6. Mr Szabo went on to provide an overview of the various focus areas detailed in the report and provided some relevant and concrete examples. Each focus area was analysed to recommend improvements that could enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of WOAHA's governance structures. For instance, institutional governance discussed could include revisiting the roles and responsibilities of WOAHA's governing bodies to ensure clarity and eliminate overlaps, while technical governance might focus on formalising procedures for standard-setting to ensure transparency and accountability.
7. Furthermore, the presentation emphasised the next steps in the governance review process, indicating the opportunity to be given to the Assembly during the upcoming General Session to explore the sustainability of current WOAHA's governance in future scenarios to be explored during the Forum 'Is WOAHA Ready for the Future?' Finally, Mr Szabo highlighted the importance of aligning WOAHA's governance structures with its current and future needs, suggesting that revisions to the Basic Texts and other governance documents may be necessary to address the evolving challenges in global animal health governance. As suggested in draft Resolution No. 12 'Revision of the WOAHA Basic Texts', this would involve a collective effort from all Members to engage in meaningful discussions and make informed decisions on the proposed changes, aiming for a governance framework that is robust, transparent and capable of meeting the Organisation's objectives effectively.

Confirmation of the venue and preparation of the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission to be held in February 2025

8. Dr Alemayehu Mekonnen Anbessie, Senior Advisor Office of the State Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Resources Development Sector, on behalf of Dr Fikru Regassa, Delegate of Ethiopia, reiterated his country's offer to host the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa in February 2025.
9. He shared a brief history of the previous Conferences of the Regional Commission and reminded Members that at the last Conference held in Gaborone, Botswana, Ethiopia had expressed interest in hosting the next Conference of the Regional Commission.
10. Dr Alemayehu informed the meeting that, since then, Ethiopia has set up a national organising committee consisting of a high-level steering committee, joint coordination committee and six technical committees to ensure the success of the event.
11. He reported briefly on the various arrangements Ethiopia had made to start organising the conference, including the potential venue of the event. Dr Alemayehu assured the participants that all the details would be sent in a timely manner.

Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission

12. Following a zoom poll consultation, the Regional Commission selected the following Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission.

'Veterinary Services and food safety: challenges and perspectives for policy development in the context of market unification on a continental scale'

Selection of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOAHA through various means (Scientific and Technical Review, Newsletter, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting)

13. The Regional Commission selected the following three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the WOAHA through various means:
1. Animal health policies as the main enabling tool for developing the capacities of the Veterinary Services
 2. Wildlife: what skills for Veterinary Services?
 3. Capacity building perspectives for the role of Veterinary Services in promoting food safety.

Africa PPP Forum in the Veterinary Domain

14. Dr Rahul Srivastava, WOAHA Public Private Partnership Project Manager, presented a brief review of the Africa Public–Private Partnership (PPP) Forum in the veterinary domain.
15. He discussed the emerging policy and financial frameworks across the continent which advocate for the critical role of PPP in the veterinary domain. He also highlighted the challenges in visualising the potential of PPP in the veterinary domain at national, regional and continental levels due to the lack of understanding and a common platform for stakeholders. Despite WOAHA's initiative of developing a PPP database, there is a need to comprehend the ongoing PPP activities and the potential for PPP development at different levels.
16. Therefore, understanding the potential of such a platform, WOAHA and the African Union's Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) have conceptualised The Africa Public-Private Partnerships Forum in the Veterinary Domain (AF3P). It aims to create a continental platform for fostering dialogue, sharing innovative solutions, and promoting sustainable practices in partnership with public and private stakeholders in the veterinary domain, thereby benefiting the entire sector.
17. Dr Srivastava informed the meeting that the forum will be officially launched during the WOAHA Continental Conference on 28 November 2024. He invited the Members attending the 91st General Session in Paris to the PPP side event, which will take place on 30 May from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. in Room 251 of Maison de la Chimie.

Towards a more resilient veterinary workforce for Africa (2024 Continental Conference)

18. Dr Laibané Dieudonné Dahourou, WOAHA Programme Officer, commented on the upcoming Veterinary Workforce Conference to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 26 to 28 November 2024.
19. He stated that the 2024 Conference aims to share best practices for improving human and animal health in relation to workforce development. General information about the conference is available on the website. More than 200 participants are expected to attend the event, including veterinary authorities, veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals, associations and academia.
20. Dr Dahourou, explained that the conference would adopt parallel sessions covering various topics such as PPP, AMR, One Health, Gender, etc. Participants will be able to choose the sessions they wish to attend.
21. He concluded by thanking Agence française de développement (AFD), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), GALVmed and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the primary funders of the conference.

Report of activities within the GF-TADs mechanism in Africa

22. Dr Viola Chemis, WOAHA Programme Officer, provided the Regional Commission with an update on GF-TADs activities in the region. These included meetings of the Standing Group of Experts (SGE) for contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and African swine fever (ASF) which resulted in action work plans, roadmap meetings for foot and mouth (FMD) disease conducted for Eastern and Western Africa, an FMD risk analysis workshop through the Progressive Control Pathway (PCP) approach.
23. Finally, Dr Chemis mentioned that the upcoming activities for 2024 will include a CBPP SGE meeting to be held in Lusaka in July 2024, a Regional Steering Committee meeting in Eswatini, in August 2024, and an ASF SGE meeting also in Eswatini, in August 2024.

2025 Budgeted Work Programme – Income Estimates and Contribution Scale

24. Mr Xavier Pairault, WOAHA Director of Administration, explained the rationale behind the proposal of increasing the statutory contributions rates by 6.9% for 2025.
25. Mr Pairault reminded the Regional Commission that: 1) discussions regarding the financial sustainability of WOAHA regular budget started during the Council meeting in September 2021, mainly considering the impact of the digitalisation as well as the growing number and types of activities supported by WOAHA in order to respond to its Member's needs; 2) an extraordinary Council meeting held in December 2021 supported the proposal presented and was finally accepted by the Assembly in 2022, increasing the statutory contributions of 30% over the period 2023–2025, with a 15% increase adopted for 2023 and a 7.5% foreseen increase for 2024 and 2025; 3) an explanatory note was shared with Delegates explaining the rationale behind the increase proposed in 2022; 4) the high inflation rate and deteriorated economic situation led to a request and a vote at the 2023 General Session for a 15% increase for 2024 instead of the originally anticipated 7.5%.
26. The Director of Administration then detailed the key factors taken into account to support the evolution of the statutory contributions, namely: 1) a robust financial management and performance in 2023, enabling WOAHA to absorb increased costs; 2) the confirmation of decreasing inflation rate for 2024 and 2025 with a temporary favourable impact; 3) the new financial policy framework and commitment tracking tool leading to better budgetary planning and financial oversight; 4) a 2025 work programme supported by 60 quantitative indicators with an improved transparency and hopefully efficiency as well; 5) any request for increased contributions should also consider the 'Analysis and evaluation of the institutional, technical, and financial governance of WOAHA' – see [91GS/Adm-13](#).
27. Mr Pairault closed by informing that based on the above factors, the 2025 contribution scale has been revised with a +6.9% increase – only applying the 2023 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Total Consumer Price Index (OECD – Total CPI) as per Resolution 15 of the 2018 General Session.

Announcement by the Director General regarding the nomination of a new Sub-Regional Representative for Eastern Africa

28. Dr Monique Eloit, informed the Regional Commission that, following the termination of duties of Dr Samuel Wakhusama, she has decided to nominate Dr Neo Mapitse as the Sub-regional Representative for Eastern Africa starting on 1 September 2024.
29. Dr Eloit explained that her decision was based on Dr Mapitse's seniority, including his in-depth knowledge of the African region in terms of challenges, needs and expectations of Members and partners, as well as his knowledge of WOAHA activities, not only those carried out by the Nairobi office but also through the other offices, thanks to his current position as Head of Regional Activities Department. In addition, she emphasised that Dr Mapitse's previous

positions as Head of WOAHA Status Department and Deputy Head of WAHIAD, two areas of key importance in the work of WOAHA, as well as his initial experience as Sub-regional Representative for Southern Africa, have given him a broader vision to properly comply with the requirements for the position of Sub-regional Representative and ensure responding to the needs of Members and maintain strong relations and cooperation with our regional partners, particularly with AU-IBAR.

30. The Regional Commission supported the Director General's decision.

WOAHA Regions' kiosk

31. Ms Nathaly Monsalve, WOAHA Regional Activities Coordination Manager of the Regional Activities Department (RAD), provided information on the scheduled Regional kiosk during the General Session aimed at showcasing the key activities conducted by WOAHA at regional level. She encouraged Delegates to visit the kiosk and interact with colleagues from the Regions.

Closed session for Delegates only

Elections of the Specialist Commissions

32. Dr Montserrat Arroyo, Deputy Director General of International Standards and Science, described the overall process for the election of WOAHA's Specialist Commissions, focusing on the selection process from the beginning, including the initial call for candidates, the evaluation process, the agreed list by the Council, and the final election process that will take place on Tuesday 28 May 2024 within the first administrative session of the General Session.
33. She highlighted the open call and evaluation of both the new candidates for election to the Specialist Commissions, as well as the evaluation of the current Specialist Commissions member's performance through a standardised process based on the Performance Management Framework.
34. Dr Arroyo closed her intervention by reminding the Delegates of their roles during each step of the elections.

Elections: voting modalities and quorum

35. Mr Rodney De-Souza, Head of WOAHA Legal Affairs Unit, briefly presented the voting modalities and reminded the assembled of the required quorum and majorities for the elections.

Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Council and the Specialist Commissions

36. Dr Honoré N'lemba Mabela chaired the discussion regarding the proposal of candidates to be presented to the World Assembly for election on Tuesday 28 May.
37. The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Council:

Dr Roland Xolani Dlamini (Delegate of Eswatini)

Dr Mbargou Lo (Delegate of Senegal)

Bureau of the Regional Commission:

President: Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela (Delegate of Congo (Dem. Rep. of the))

Vice-President: Dr Anna Rose Ademun Okurut (Delegate of Uganda)

Vice-President: Dr Abderrahman El Abrak (Delegate of Morocco)

Secretary General: Dr Columba Teru Vakuru (Delegate of Nigeria)

Specialist Commissions:

The Regional Commission will support current members from the region in the different Specialist Commissions as follows:

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Salah Hammami (Tunisia)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Kevin Christison (South Africa)

Biologic Standards Commission

Dr Emmanuel Couacy-Hymann (Cote d'Ivoire) (as President)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Dr Baptiste Kimbenga Dungu (South Africa/DR Congo)

Dr Misheck Mulumba (Zambia)

Closing

38. The meeting officially ended at 4 p.m. CEST.

Session 2 (face to face)

Closed session for Delegates only

39. The Regional Commission for Africa met face to face on 27 May 2024, at 8:30 a.m. CEST at the *Maison de la Chimie* in Paris. The meeting was attended by 32 Members of the Commission:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Central African Rep., Congo (Rep. of the), Congo (Dem. Rep. of), Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan (Rep. of), Eswatini, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

40. The Meeting was chaired by Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela, President of the Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, accompanied by Dr Karim Tounkara, Regional Representative for Africa.

Adoption of the Agenda

41. The President of the Regional Commission invited the Commission to observe a moment of silence for the late Delegate of Liberia Dr Joseph Anderson and noted the request for the Region to consider means of support by Delegates in such situations.

42. The Agenda, described in the [Annex](#), was unanimously adopted.

Confirmation of the main points agreed during the virtual meeting (including the proposed candidates and the technical topics)

43. The President of the Regional Commission summarised the main points discussed during the virtual meeting held on 15 May 2024, at 7:00 a.m. CEST, allowing the Regional Commission to confirm the main points agreed, namely the technical item proposed for the forthcoming Regional Conference, the strategic topics proposed to be addressed by WOAHA through various means, the candidates proposed by the region to be presented to the World Assembly for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Council and the Specialist Commissions.
44. The Delegate of Togo and member of Council Dr Batawui Komla Batasse reminded the Commission regarding the ongoing work on the revision of the Basic Texts and that it is important for the Delegates to follow this work closely and submit their contributions.
45. The President of the Regional Commission thanked the Delegate of Togo for his contributions and for representing the Region well in Council.

WOAH Incident Management System

46. Dr Madison Wimmers, Project Officer of WOAHA's Preparedness and Resilience Department presented the ongoing work to develop WOAHA Incident Management System (IMS) to enhance the organisation's technical response to incidents. An IMS encompasses policies, procedures and resources (including personnel) to effectively manage incidents, facilitating communication, control and decision-making during emergencies. This system will enable WOAHA to respond more efficiently to international and regional emergencies, supporting its Members within the organisation's scope and mandate. The initiative follows recommendations from the COVID-19 After Action Review and was mandated by the Members under the [Emergency Management Technical Item Resolution no. 28 \(General Session, 2022\)](#).
47. Ausvet Ltd has been contracted as the service provider for the IMS development. Dr Matthew Stone of Spade Solutions Ltd was also contracted to serve as an independent expert consultant to support WOAHA in reviewing the IMS deliverables. The development will proceed in phases: starting with scoping and design, followed by development, training, and concluding with testing through a simulation exercise and refinement. The IMS is scheduled for completion by May 2025, to be reported back to the Members during the 2025 General Session.

Application from Tunisia for a WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Field Epidemiology

48. Professor Malek Zrelli Councillor of the Minister of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries, on behalf of the Alternate Delegate of Tunisia, submitted a request to the Regional Commission in order for it to consider Tunisia's National Animal Health Surveillance Centre (CNVZ) as a WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Field Epidemiology.
49. She reported that all details had been sent to the Delegates in advance.
50. The proposal was approved unanimously by the Regional Commission.

Closing

51. The meeting officially ended at 10:00 a.m. CEST.

**MEETING OF THE WOAHA REGIONAL COMMISSION
FOR AFRICA**
Session 1 (virtual)
21 May 2024
(1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. CEST)

Draft Agenda

- 12.45 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Zoom check-in and connecting
- 1:00 p.m. – 1:05 p.m. Adoption of the agenda (Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela, President of the Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo)
- 1:05 p.m. – 1:35 p.m. Analysis and evaluation of WOAHA's institutional, technical and financial governance (Dr François Caya, WOAHA Chief of staff and Mr Eelco Szabo, external consultant)
- 1.35 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Confirmation of the venue and preparation of the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission to be held in February 2025 (Dr Fikru Regassa Gari, Delegate of Ethiopia)
- 1:45 p.m. – 1:55 p.m. Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission (Dr Albertina Shilongo, Vice President of the Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of Namibia)
- 1:55 p.m. – 2:05 p.m. Proposal of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOAHA through various means (Scientific and Technical Review, Newsletter, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting) (Dr Albertina Shilongo)
- 2:05 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Africa PPP Forum in the Veterinary Domain (Dr Rahul Srivastava, Public-Private Partnership Project Manager)
- 2:15 p.m. – 2:25 p.m. Towards a more resilient veterinary workforce for Africa (2024 Continental Conference) (Dr Laibané Dieudonné Dahourou, WOAHA Programme Officer)
- 2:25 p.m. – 2:35 p.m. Report of activities within the GF-TADs mechanism in Africa (Dr Viola Chemis, WOAHA Programme officer)
- 2:35 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. 2025 Budgeted Programme – Income Estimates and Contribution Scale (Mr Xavier Pairault, WOAHA Director of Administration)
- 2:45 p.m. – 2:55 p.m. Announcement by the Director General regarding the nomination of a new Sub-Regional Representative for Eastern Africa (Dr Monique Eloit, WOAHA Director General)

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

- 2:55 p.m. – 3:10 p.m. Elections of the Specialist Commissions (Dr Montserrat Arroyo, Deputy Director General)
- 3:10 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. Elections: voting modalities and quorum (Dr François Caya and Rodney De-Souza, Head of WOAHA Legal Affairs Unit)

- 3:20 p.m. – 3:50 p.m. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Council and the Specialist Commissions (Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela)
- 3:50 p.m. Closing (Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela)

Session 2 (face to face)
Monday, 27 May 2024
(Maison de la Chimie, Paris)

Draft Agenda

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

- 8:30 a.m. – 8:35 a.m. Adoption of the agenda (Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela, President of the Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo)
- 8:35 a.m.– 9:05 a.m. Confirmation of the main points agreed during the virtual meeting (including the proposed candidates and the technical topics) (Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela)
- 9:05 a.m.– 9:25 a.m. WOAHA Incident Management System (Ms Madison Wimmers, Project Officer, Preparedness and Resilience Department)
- 9:25 a.m.– 9:45 a.m. Application from Tunisia for a WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Field Epidemiology (Dre Sana Kacem, Delegate of Tunisia)
- 9:45 a.m.– 10:00 a.m. Closing (Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela)

**Report of the Meeting of the Regional Commission
for the Americas**

[Administrative Working Document]



Session 1 (virtual)

1. The Regional Commission for the Americas met by videoconference on 15 May 2024, at 4:00 p.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 77 participants, including Delegates and observers from 27 Members of the Commission and representatives from 7 International and Regional Organisations:

Members of the Commission:

Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curaçao, Chile, Dominican Rep., Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, United States of America and Uruguay.

International/Regional Organisations:

Caribbean Agriculture Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP), Association of Latin American and Caribbean Feed Industry (Feedlatina), Ibero-American Pork Organization (OIPORC), Pan American Center for Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Veterinary Public Health (PANAFTOSA/VPH-PAHO/WHO), United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and General Secretariat of the Andean Community (SG-CAN).

2. The meeting was chaired by Dr Ximena Melon, President of the Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of Argentine, accompanied by Dr Luis Osvaldo Barcos, Regional Representative for the Americas.

Adoption of the Agenda

3. A proposal was made to modify the Agenda to include a discussion of the regional positions for the WOAHA General Session, as the last topic of the open session. The Agenda, described in the [Annex](#), was unanimously adopted with the proposed modifications.

Analysis and evaluation of the institutional, technical and financial governance of the World Organisation of Animal Health

4. Dr François Caya, WOAHA Chief of Staff, introduced Mr Eelco Szabo, a legal and governance consultant and part of a consortium mandated by WOAHA to undertake what is commonly referred to as the external review of the WOAHA Basic Texts.
5. Mr Szabo, who has extensive experience in legal and governance frameworks across various international organisations, presented the in-depth analysis and review of the governance structures and processes of the Organisation reflected in the General Session working document [91GS/Adm-13](#) titled 'Analysis and evaluation of the institutional, technical and financial governance of WOAHA'. This external review, conducted over nine months, meticulously examined the foundational treaty, Basic Texts, numerous resolutions, and conducted interviews and workshops with members of WOAHA's governance bodies and relevant officials, including the Council. This comprehensive approach helped to understand the historical and current operational frameworks and identify areas for potential improvement in institutional, technical and financial governance.
6. Mr Szabo went on to provide an overview of the various focus areas detailed in the report, and provided some relevant and concrete examples. Each focus area was analysed to recommend improvements that could enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of WOAHA's governance structures. For instance, institutional governance discussed could include revisiting the roles and responsibilities of WOAHA's governing bodies to ensure clarity and eliminate overlaps, while

technical governance might focus on formalising procedures for standard-setting to ensure transparency and accountability.

7. Furthermore, the presentation emphasised the next steps in the governance review process, indicating the opportunity to be given to the Assembly during the upcoming General Session to explore the sustainability of current WOAHA's governance in future scenarios to be explored during the Forum 'Is WOAHA Ready for the Future?' Finally, Mr Szabo highlighted the importance of aligning WOAHA's governance structures with its current and future needs, suggesting that revisions to the Basic Texts and other governance documents may be necessary to address the evolving challenges in global animal health governance. As suggested in draft Resolution No. 12 'Revision of the WOAHA Basic Texts', this would involve a collective effort from all Members to engage in meaningful discussions and make informed decisions on the proposed changes, aiming for a governance framework that is robust, transparent and capable of meeting the Organisation's objectives effectively.
8. Following a brief introduction of Resolution No. 12 titled 'Revision of the WOAHA Basic Texts' in which the creation of a dedicated group on governance is mentioned, Argentina suggested that the Regional Commissions be consulted on the identification of the group membership.

Preparation of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission to be held in Quito, Ecuador, from 11 to 15 November 2024

9. Dr Christian Zambrano, representing Dr Wilson Patricio Almeida Granja, the Delegate of Ecuador, confirmed that his country was both ready and proud to host this important regional event and invited all the Delegates to take part in the Conference that will be held in Quito, Ecuador, from 11 to 15 November 2024.
10. He briefly touched on the various steps that his country had taken to start organising the conference. Dr Almeida Granja gave a general outline of the event and promised the attendees that all necessary details would be sent to them in time.

Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission

11. The Regional Commission selected the following technical item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas:

'New World screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) and its economic impact on the affected countries'

Selection of strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOAHA through various means (Scientific and Technical Review, Newsletter, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting)

12. The Regional Commission selected the following strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the WOAHA through various means:
 1. 'Current scenario of critical veterinary products'
 2. 'Bovine brucellosis, a growing zoonosis which requires a change of strategy'
 3. 'Designing and conducting surveillance to maximise effectiveness and efficiency of information gathering'
 4. 'Maintenance of surveillance/animal health testing or animal health status in active war zones and/or mass civil or political unrest'

One Health and Quadripartite activities in the region

13. Dr Maria Eugenia Chimenti, Technical Assistant, WOA Regional Representation, informed those attending about the activities being rolled out in the region under the 'One Health' framework. She mentioned the Quadripartite monthly coordination meetings with the regional and subregional organisations, originally geared to discussing Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) curbing initiatives, that now focus on coordinating new areas of action including AMR, rabies and influenza and neglected zoonotic diseases, as well as wild animal health and environmental factors. She highlighted the need to reach a formal agreement in the region, along with guaranteeing governance and the availability of resources.

Project for the harmonisation of health requirements (HHP) and implementation of a common protocol and health certificate based on the provisions of the WOAH Terrestrial Code for temporary movements of HHP horses in South America

14. Dr Mauro Meske, Project Officer, WOA's Status Department, touched on the efforts being made to facilitate the temporary movement of HHP horses under the agreement with the International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC). He pointed out that technical documents were being drawn up to harmonise the requirements in the *Mercado Común del Sur* (Southern Common Market) Mercosur and Andean Community regional blocks, as well as Chile. He added that a simulation exercise had been conducted on the application of the documents developed. Lastly, he urged the Delegates to become involved in the harmonisation process and encourage the rollout of the documents in their countries.

2025 Budgeted Work Programme – Income Estimates and Contribution Scale

15. Mr Xavier Pairault, WOA Director of Administration, explained the rationale behind the proposal of increasing the statutory contributions rates by 6.9% for 2025.
16. Mr Pairault reminded the Regional Commission that: 1) discussions regarding the financial sustainability of WOA regular budget started during the Council meeting in September 2021, mainly considering the impact of the digitalisation as well as the growing number and types of activities supported by WOA in order to respond to its Member's needs; 2) an extraordinary Council meeting, held in December 2021, supported the proposal presented and finally accepted by the Assembly in 2022, increasing the statutory contributions of 30% over the period 2023–2025, with a 15% increase adopted for 2023 and a 7.5% foreseen increase for 2024 and 2025; 3) an explanatory note was shared with Delegates explaining the rationale behind the increase proposed in 2022; 4) the high inflation rate and deteriorated economic situation led to a request and a vote at the 2023 General Session for a 15% increase for 2024 instead of the originally anticipated 7.5%.
17. The Director of Administration then detailed the key factors taken into account to support the evolution of the statutory contributions, namely: 1) a robust financial management and performance in 2023, enabling WOA to absorb increased costs; 2) the confirmation of decreasing inflation rate for 2024 and 2025 with a temporary favourable impact; 3) the new financial policy framework and commitment tracking tool leading to better budgetary planning and financial oversight; 4) a 2025 work programme supported by 60 quantitative indicators with an improved transparency and hopefully efficiency as well; and 5) any request for increased contributions should also consider the 'Analysis and evaluation of the institutional, technical, and financial governance of WOA' – see [91GS/Adm-13](#).
18. Mr Pairault closed by informing that, based on the above factors, the 2025 contribution scale has been revised with a +6.9% increase – only applying the 2023 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Total Consumer Price Index (OECD – Total CPI) as per Resolution 15 of the 2018 General Session.

Discussion on regional positions for WOAHA General Session

19. The Regional Commission discussed and agreed on a common position to be put forward at the 91st General Session on behalf of the Members of the Regional Commission for the Americas, on the following items:
- A draft motion should be sent to the Director General and a speech made at the 91st General Session, advocating greater transparency in the candidate assessment and selection (acceptance or rejection) process for the Specialist Commissions.
 - A draft motion should be sent to the Terrestrial Animal Health Code Commission (Code Commission) and a speech made at the 91st General Session to amend Article 7.5.28, to incorporate the use of hooks provided that they do not distress, frighten or hurt the animals as an alternative to using shackles on broilers. ([Chapter 7.5](#) of the *Terrestrial Code* on the Slaughter of Animals).
 - A draft motion should be sent to the Code Commission and a speech made at the 91st General Session, proposing a style change in the expression on the veterinarians use of antimicrobials and the limitation of their use in promoting growth and their prescription, to bring it into line with the International Codex Alimentarius, (Articles 6.10.1, 6.10.3 and 6.10.6 of the *Terrestrial Code* on the [Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine](#)).
20. Other speeches to be made during the General Session:
- Support for the revisions to [Chapter 8.8](#) (Infection with foot and mouth disease virus), as presented for adoption.
 - Motion to revise the definition of *poultry*, with a risk-based approach that facilitates international trade, especially for the interpretation of the chapter on [Infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses](#). A request will be made to the group dealing with the subject to consider the region's experts.
 - Opposition to the listing of Infectious Spleen and Kidney Necrosis virus (ISKNV) in the *Aquatic Animal Health Code* ([Chapter 1.3](#)), based on its widespread distribution across the world and potential impact on ornamental fish trade through the application of more restrictive measures.

WOAH Regions' kiosk

21. Ms Nathaly Monsalve, WOAHA Regional Activities Coordination Manager of the Regional Activities Department (RAD), provided information on the scheduled Regional kiosk during the General Session aimed at showcasing the key activities conducted by WOAHA at regional level. She encouraged Delegates to visit the kiosk and interact with colleagues from the Regions.

Closed session for Delegates only

Elections of the Specialist Commissions

22. On behalf of Dr Monserrat Arroyo, WOAHA Deputy Director General of International Standards and Science, Dr François Caya described the overall process for the election of WOAHA's Specialist Commissions, focusing on the selection process from the beginning, including the initial call for candidates, the evaluation process, the agreed list by the Council, and the final election process that will take place on Tuesday 28 May 2024 within the first administrative session of the General Session.

23. He highlighted the open call and evaluation of both, the new candidates for election to the Specialist Commissions, as well as the evaluation of the current Specialist Commissions member's performance through a standardised process based on the Performance Management Framework.
24. Dr Caya closed his intervention by reminding the Delegates of their roles during each step of the elections.

Elections: voting modalities and quorum

25. Mr Rodney De-Souza, Head of WOAHA Legal Affairs Unit, briefly presented the voting modalities and reminded the assembled of the required quorum and majorities for the elections.

Proposal and selection of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Council and the Specialist Commissions

26. Dr Ximena Melon chaired the discussion regarding the proposal of candidates to be presented to the World Assembly for election on Tuesday 28 May.

27. The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Council:

Dr Wilmer José Juárez Juárez (Delegate of Nicaragua)

Dr Hugo Idoyaga Benítez, current President of the World Assembly of Delegates and Delegate of Paraguay, will assume the position of the Past President of the Council.

Bureau of the Regional Commission:

President and first Vice-president: although agreement has been reached to propose Dr Rosemary Sifford (Delegate of the United States of America) and Dr Rafael Enrique Rodríguez Alvarado (Delegate of Honduras) for these positions, their individual posts have yet to be agreed.

Second Vice-president: Dr Carlos Orellana Vaquero (Chile)

Secretary-General: Dr Roxana Alvarez (Belize)

The unresolved definition of the proposals for setting up the Regional Commission Bureau will be discussed prior to the face-to-face session when the agreements reached will be formalised.

Specialist Commissions:

The region's Delegates did not debate the proposals for the Specialist Commission members. The various proposals will be discussed in advance of the face-to-face session when the agreements reached will be formalised.

Closing

28. The meeting officially ended at 9:30 p.m. CEST.

Session 2 (face to face)

Closed Session for Delegates only

29. The Regional Commission for the Americas met face to face on 27 May 2024, at 8:30 a.m. CEST, at the Maison de la Chimie in Paris. The meeting was attended by 29 Members of the Commission:

Members of the Commission: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao, Chile, Dominican (Rep.), Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America and Uruguay.

30. The meeting was chaired by Dr Ximena Melon, President of the Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of Argentina, accompanied by Dr Luis Barcos, Regional Representative for the Americas.

Adoption of the Agenda

31. The Agenda, described in the [annex](#), was unanimously adopted.

Confirmation of the main points agreed during the virtual meeting held on May 15th (including the proposed candidates and the technical topics)

32. The President of the Regional Commission summarised the main points discussed during the virtual meeting held on 15 May 2024, at 7:00 a.m. CEST, allowing the Regional Commission to confirm the main points agreed, namely the technical item proposed for the forthcoming Regional Conference, the strategic topics proposed to be addressed by WOAHP through various means, and the candidates proposed by the region to be presented to the World Assembly for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Council and the Specialist Commissions.
33. The region's Delegates agreed the application of the following candidates to form the Bureau of the Regional Commission:

President: Dr Rosemary Sifford (United States of America)

First Vice-president: Dr Rafael Rodríguez Alvarado (Honduras)

Second Vice-president: Dr Carlos Orellana Vaquero (Chile)

Secretary-General: Dr Roxana Alvarez (Belize)

34. They agreed the following applications for the Specialist Commissions, and the Delegates agreed on the following proposals for positions:

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

The regional Delegates agreed to submit the following names:

Dr Gastón Funes (Argentina) – Vice-president

Dr Bernardo Todeschini (Brazil) – Member

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

The regional Delegates agreed to submit the following names:

Dr Alicia Gallardo Lagno (Chile) – President

Dr Bernita Griffin (Canada) – Member

Biological Standards Commission

The regional Delegates agreed to submit the following names:

Dr Chris Oura (Trinidad and Tobago) – Vice-president

Dr Aruna Ambagala (Canada) – Member

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

The regional Delegates agreed to submit the following name:

Dr Cristóbal Zepeda (United States of America) – President

Proposal of WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Genome Monitoring of Swine Viral Disease hosted by the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF), United States of America

35. Dr Rosemary Sifford, Delegate of the United States of America, submitted a request to the Regional Commission in order for it to consider the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) in Manhattan (Kansas) as a WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Genome Monitoring of Swine Viral Disease.
36. She reported that all details had been sent to the Delegates in advance.
37. The Regional Commission unanimously approved the proposal.

Discussion on regional positions for WOAHA General Session

38. The common positions to be presented at the 91st General Session on behalf of the Members of the Regional Commission for the Americas, were revised and confirmed as agreed during the virtual session.

WOAHA Incident Management System

39. Dr Daniel Donachie, the Preparation and Resilience Department Programme Manager, outlined the ongoing work to develop the WOAHA Incident Management System, and emphasised that in 2024, WOAHA developed an Incident Management System to improve the organisation's technical response to incidents.
40. He explained that the Incident Management System encompasses policies, procedures and resources (including personnel) to effectively manage incidents, facilitating communication, control and decision-making during emergencies. This system will enable WOAHA to respond more efficiently to international and regional emergencies, thus offering its Members greater support within the organisation's scope and mandate.

41. Dr Donachie observed that the initiative follows the recommendations of the revision following the COVID-19 crisis response and was mandated by the Membership under the Emergency Management Technical Item Resolution (General Session, 2022). Ausvet Ltd has been contracted as the Incident Management System development service provider. Dr Matthew Stone, of Spade Solutions Ltd, was also contracted to serve as an independent expert consultant to support WOAHA in reviewing the Incident Management System deliverables. The development will proceed in phases: starting with scoping and design, followed by the development and training, then concluding with testing through a simulation exercise and refinement.
42. He concluded by informing the Delegates that the Incident Management System is due to be finalised in May 2025, when the Members will be informed during the General Session, 2025.

Closing

43. The session officially ended at 10:10 a.m. CEST

**MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**
Session 1 (virtual)

15 May 2024
(4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Paris time)

Draft Agenda

- 3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Zoom check-in and connecting.
- 4:00 p.m. – 4:05 p.m. Adoption of the agenda (Dr Ximena Melon, President of the Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of Argentina)
- 4:05 p.m. – 4:35 p.m. Analysis and evaluation of WOAHA's institutional, technical and financial governance (Dr François Caya, WOAHA Chief of staff and Mr Eelco Szabo, external consultant)
- 4:35 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Preparation of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission to be held in Quito, Ecuador, from 11 to 15 November 2024 (Dr Christian Zambrano, Alternate Delegate of Ecuador)
- 4:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission (Dr Rafael Enrique Rodriguez Alvarado, Delegate of Honduras)
- 5:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. Selection of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOAHA through various means (Scientific and Technical Review, Newsletter, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting) (Dr Rosemary Sifford, Vice President of the Regional Commission and Delegate of the United States of America)
- 5:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. One Health and Quadripartite activities in the region (Dr Maria Eugenia Chimenti, Technical Assistant WOAHA Regional Representation)
- 5:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Project for the harmonisation of health requirements and implementation of a common protocol and health certificate based on the provisions of the WOAHA Terrestrial Code for temporary movements of HHP horses in South America (Dr Mauro Meske, WOAHA Disease Status officer)
- 5:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.: 2025 Budgeted Work Programme – Income Estimates & Contribution Scale (Mr Xavier Pairault, WOAHA Director of Administration)
- 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Preliminary discussion on the regional position for WOAHA General Session (Dr Ximena Melon)

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

- 7:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. Elections of the Specialist Commissions (Dr Montserrat Arroyo, Deputy Director General)
- 7:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Elections: voting modalities and quorum (Dr François Caya and Mr Rodney De-Souza, Head of WOAHA Legal Affairs Unit)
- 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Proposal and selection of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Council and the Specialist Commissions (Dr Ximena Melon)/Zoom poll

Session 2 (face to face)
Monday, 27 May 2024
(Maison de la Chimie, Paris)

Draft Agenda

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 8:30 a.m. – 8:35 a.m. | Adoption of the agenda (Dr Ximena Melon, President of the Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of Argentina) |
| 8:35 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. | Confirmation of the main points agreed during the virtual meeting held virtually on May 15th (including the proposed candidates and the technical topics) (Dr Ximena Melon) |
| 9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. | Proposal of WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Genome Monitoring of Swine Viral Disease hosted by the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF), United States of America (Dr Rosemary Sifford, Vice President of the Regional Commission and Delegate of the United States of America) |
| 9:15 a.m. – 9:55 a.m. | Discussion on regional positions for WOAHA General Session (Dr Ximena Melon) |
| 9:55 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. | WOAHA Incident Management System (Dr Daniel Donachie, Programme Manager, Preparedness and Resilience Department) |
| 10:10 a.m. | Closing of the meeting (Dr Ximena Melon) |

91GS/Admin-03/En
Original: English
May 2024

**Report of the Meeting of the
Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

[Administrative Working Document]



Session 1 (virtual)

1. The Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific met by videoconference on 14 May 2024, at 7:00 a.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 87 participants, including Delegates and Alternate Delegates from 23 Members of the Commission, 1 observer, and representatives from 2 International and Regional Organisations:

Members of the Commission: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand.

Observers: Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (HKSAR)

International/regional organisations: Pacific Community (SPC) and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

2. The Meeting was chaired by Dr Baoxu Huang, President of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific and Delegate of China (People's Rep. of), accompanied by Dr Hirofumi Kugita, Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific.

Adoption of the Agenda

3. The Agenda, described in the [Annex](#), was unanimously adopted.

Outcomes of the 33rd Conference of the Regional Commission, held in November 2023, in New Delhi, India

4. Ms Alka Upadhyaya, Delegate of India, described the main outcomes of the 33rd Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which was attended by 81 participants, comprising WOAHA Delegates and representatives of 24 Members of the Region and senior officers from 10 regional, international and national organisations.
5. She referred to four key points underscored by the Conference: 1) the crucial role WOAHA and its Members play in ensuring Veterinary Services' key contributions to the global community are well understood and considered by all relevant stakeholders, and that the voice of the Veterinary Services is heard in all relevant political fora; 2) that Veterinary Services are a critical partner in ensuring global health, and WOAHA has developed international standards and guidelines and initiatives, strategies and tools, in collaboration with partners, to support Members in ensuring global animal health and operationalisation of the One Health approach; 3) for Members to equitably allocate sufficient and sustainable funding for the Veterinary Services and continually engage in capacity building efforts, so these can support and protect animal health and thus, contribute to global health; and 4) preserving animal health requires further effort, including developing a regional strategy to advance coordination of regional disease control and ensure animal health sustainability, and for WOAHA and its Members to be leaders in the global health agenda.
6. Finally, Ms Upadhyaya reviewed recommendations for two technical items (TI) of the Conference which were adopted by the Regional Commission: (TI 1: Preventing Zoonoses at Source – towards enhancing capacity for prevention, rapid detection, awareness, control and research on zoonoses, and TI 2: One Health approaches to addressing risk: Case studies and discussions focused on Avian Influenza with the objective of implementing effective/efficient surveillance and data sharing across sectors including wildlife and the environment). Both recommendations will be presented to the World Assembly for endorsement.

Confirmation of the dates and venue of the 34th Conference of the Regional Commission to be held in September 2025

7. Dr Nuryanti Zainuddin, Alternate Delegate of Indonesia, reiterated Indonesia's offer to host the 34th Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific in September 2025. Exact dates and venue will be defined at a later stage in consultation with the WOAHP Director General.

Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 34th Conference of the Regional Commission

8. The Regional Commission selected the following technical item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 34th Conference of the Regional Commission.

‘Animal vaccines and vaccination: development, registration, use, surveillance and impact on trade (case study: African swine fever)’

Selection of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOAHP through various means (Scientific and Technical Review, newsletter, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting)

9. The Regional Commission selected the following three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the WOAHP through various means:

1. Study on the mechanism of cross species pathogenesis and transmission of HPAI, especially for mammal species and cattle.
2. International collaboration to prevent illegal or unregulated movements of animals and animal risk products.
3. The establishment and strengthening of veterinary statutory bodies to support efficient veterinary services.

Updates on the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) for Asia and the Pacific and endorsement of new chair and members for the RAWS Advisory Group

10. Dr Kate Littin, outgoing Chair of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) Advisory Group for the Asia–Pacific, delivered an annual update on RAWS activities. She presented and sought endorsement for a new Chair and a list of new members for the Advisory Group, and introduced the previously circulated RAWS Third Action Plan (2024–2028), encouraging its use to promote animal welfare in the region. The Regional Commission endorsed the new Chair and members of the Advisory Group and the RAWS Third Action Plan (2024–2028).

Updates on the facilitation of international horse movement project and harmonisation of health certificate

11. Dr Susanne Münstermann, WOAHP consultant, gave an update on the ‘Facilitation of international horse movement in Asia and the Pacific’ project with emphasis on the harmonisation of health certificates for the temporary importation of competition horses. Dr Münstermann highlighted the project's key objectives, including strengthening Veterinary Services and equine industry cooperation and equine disease management capacity building. Ongoing activities include a series of equine disease webinars, regional control measures improvement, and development of regionally harmonised competition horses’ import health certificates.

2025 Budgeted Work Programme – Income Estimates and Contribution Scale

12. Mr Xavier Pairault, WOAHA Director of Administration, explained the rationale behind the proposal of increasing the statutory contributions rates by 6.9% for 2025.
13. Mr Pairault reminded the Regional Commission that: 1) discussions regarding the financial sustainability of WOAHA regular budget started during the Council meeting in September 2021 considering mainly the impact of the digitalisation as well as the growing number and types of activities supported by WOAHA in order to respond to its Member's needs; 2) an extraordinary Council meeting held in December 2021 supported the proposal presented and was finally accepted by the Assembly in 2022, increasing the statutory contributions of 30% over the period 2023–2025, with a 15% increase adopted for 2023 and a 7.5% foreseen increase for 2024 and 2025; 3) an explanatory note was shared with Delegates explaining the rationale behind the increase proposed in 2022; 4) the high inflation rate and deteriorated economic situation led to a request and a vote at the 2023 General Session for a 15% increase for 2024 instead of the originally anticipated 7.5%.
14. The Director of Administration then detailed the key factors taken into account to support the evolution of the statutory contributions namely, 1) a robust financial management and performance in 2023, enabling WOAHA to absorb increased costs; 2) the confirmation of decreasing inflation rate for 2024 and 2025 with a temporary favourable impact; 3) the new financial policy framework and commitment tracking tool leading to better budgetary planning and financial oversight; 4) a 2025 work programme supported by 60 quantitative indicators with an improved transparency and hopefully efficiency as well; 5) any request for increased contributions should also consider the 'Analysis and evaluation of the institutional, technical, and financial governance of WOAHA' – see [91GS/Adm-13](#).
15. Mr Pairault closed by informing that, based on the above factors, the 2025 contribution scale has been revised with a +6.9% increase – only applying the 2023 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Total Consumer Price Index (OECD – Total CPI) as per Resolution 15 of the 2018 General Session.

Analysis and evaluation of WOAHA's institutional, technical and financial governance

16. Dr François Caya, WOAHA Chief of Staff, introduced Mr Eelco Szabo, a legal and governance consultant and part of a consortium mandated by WOAHA to undertake what is commonly referred to as the external review of WOAHA Basic Texts.
17. Mr Szabo, who has extensive experience in legal and governance frameworks across various international organisations, presented the in-depth analysis and review of the governance structures and processes of the Organisation reflected in the General Session working document [91GS/Adm-13](#) titled 'Analysis and evaluation of the institutional, technical, and financial governance of WOAHA'. This external review, conducted over nine months, meticulously examined the foundational treaty, Basic Texts, numerous resolutions, and conducted interviews and workshops with members of WOAHA's governance bodies and relevant officials, including the Council. This comprehensive approach helped to understand the historical and current operational frameworks and identify areas for potential improvement in institutional, technical and financial governance.
18. Mr Szabó went on to provide an overview of the various focus areas detailed in the report, providing some relevant and concrete examples. Each focus area was analysed to recommend improvements that could enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of WOAHA's governance structures. For instance, institutional governance discussed could include revisiting the roles and responsibilities of WOAHA's governing bodies to ensure clarity and eliminate overlaps, while technical governance might focus on formalising procedures for standard-setting to ensure transparency and accountability.

19. Furthermore, the presentation emphasised the next steps in the governance review process, indicating the opportunity to be given to the Assembly during the upcoming General Session to explore the sustainability of WOAAH's current governance in future scenarios, to be explored during the Forum 'Is WOAAH Ready for the Future?' Finally, Mr Szabó highlighted the importance of aligning WOAAH's governance structures with its current and future needs, suggesting that revisions to the Basic Texts and other governance documents may be necessary to address the evolving challenges in global animal health governance. As suggested in draft Resolution No. 12 'Revision of the WOAAH Basic Texts', this would involve a collective effort from all Members to engage in meaningful discussions and make informed decisions on the proposed changes, aiming for a governance framework that is robust, transparent and capable of meeting the Organisation's objectives effectively.
20. Australia commended the work of WOAAH on the review of the Basic Texts and questioned the composition of the group dedicated to governance that was to be established. Dr Caya responded that the composition and modalities of work for the dedicated group will be discussed at the September 2024 Council meeting. The group will be inclusive of the Organisation's Membership, with representatives from each region.

WOAH Regions' kiosk

21. Ms Nathaly Monsalve, WOAAH Regional Activities Coordination Manager of the Regional Activities Department (RAD), provided information on the scheduled Regional kiosk during the General Session aimed at showcasing the key activities conducted by WOAAH at regional level. She encouraged Delegates to visit the kiosk and interact with colleagues from the Regions.

Closed session for Delegates only

Elections of the Specialist Commissions

22. Dr Montserrat Arroyo, Deputy Director General of International Standards and Science, described the overall process for the election of WOAAH's Specialist Commissions, focusing on the selection process from the beginning, including the initial call for candidates, the evaluation process, the agreed list by the Council, and the final election process that will take place on Tuesday 28 May 2024 within the first administrative session of the General Session.
23. She highlighted the open call and evaluation of both the new candidates for election to the Specialist Commissions, as well as the evaluation of the current Specialist Commissions member's performance through a standardised process based on the Performance Management Framework.
24. Dr Arroyo closed her intervention by reminding the Delegates of their roles during each step of the elections.

Elections: voting modalities and quorum

25. Mr Rodney De-Souza, Head of WOAAH Legal Affairs Unit, briefly presented the voting modalities and reminded the assembled of the required quorum and majorities for the elections.

Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Council and the Specialist Commissions

26. Dr Ye Tun Win, Member of the Council and Delegate of Myanmar, chaired the discussion regarding the proposal of candidates to be presented to the World Assembly for election on Tuesday 28 May 2024.
27. The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names, and that further coordination may occur in the face-to-face meeting on 27 May:

Council:

Dr Mary van Andel, Delegate of New Zealand

Dr Masatsugu Okita, Delegate of Japan

Bureau of the Regional Commission:

President: Dr Baoxu Huang, Delegate of China (People's Rep. of)

Vice-President: Dr K. A. C. H. A. Kothalawala, Delegate of Sri Lanka

Vice-President: Dr Akma binti Nhah Hamid, Delegate of Malaysia

Secretary General: Dr Beth Cookson, Delegate of Australia

Specialist Commissions:

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Ingo Ernst, Australia (*for Vice President*)

Dr Hong Liu, China (People's Rep. of)

Biological Standards Commission

Dr Satoko Kawaji, Japan

Dr Joseph S. O'Keefe, New Zealand

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Dr Naomi Cogger, New Zealand

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Kiyokazu Murai, Japan (*for Vice President*)

Dr John Stratton, Australia

Selection of additional member of Regional Core Group (RCG)

28. The Regional Commission also took the opportunity to nominate the members of the Regional Core Group (RCG). According to the regional common practices, the Members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, once elected by the World Assembly, will be automatically part of the RCG. Four additional Members will be considered for inclusion in the RCG by the next meeting, scheduled to be face-to-face on 27 May 2024.

Closing

29. The meeting officially ended at 10:55 a.m. CEST.

Session 2 (face to face)

Closed Session for Delegates only

30. The Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific met face to face on 27 May 2024, at 8:30 a.m. CEST at the Maison de la Chimie in Paris. The meeting was attended by 24 Members of the Commission:

Members of the Commission: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vanuatu and Vietnam.

31. The Meeting was chaired by Dr Baoxu Huang, President of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific and Delegate of China (People's Rep. of), accompanied by Dr Hirofumi Kugita, Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific.

Adoption of the Agenda

32. The Agenda, described in the [Annex](#), was unanimously adopted.

Confirmation of the main points agreed during the virtual meeting (including the proposed candidates and the technical topics)

33. The President of the Regional Commission summarised the main points discussed during the virtual meeting held on 14 May 2024, at 7:00 a.m. CEST, allowing the Regional Commission to confirm the main points agreed, namely the technical item proposed for the forthcoming Regional Conference, the strategic topics proposed to be addressed by WOA through various means, the candidates proposed by the region to be presented to the World Assembly for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Council and the Specialist Commissions.
34. Dr Kugita reminded Delegates that during the virtual Regional Commission Meeting on 14 May, three Members of the Regional Commission, namely India, New Caledonia, and Nepal showed interest to be part of the Regional Core Group. Dr Kugita asked if there is any other Member who wishes to be Member of the RCG. During the face-to-face meeting, Singapore and Philippines also expressed their interest to be Members.
35. The Regional Commission decided to extend the number of non-elected Members to five. Thus, the following additional Members will join the RCG:
- Delegate of India, Dr Alka Upadhyaya
- Delegate of Nepal, Dr Umesh Dahal
- Delegate of New Caledonia, Dr Coralie Lissiez
- Delegate of Singapore, Dr Him Hoo Yap
- Delegate of Philippines, Dr Constante Palabrica
- These five additional Members will join the Regional Core Group along with the Members of the Bureau and the regional members of the Council.

36. Regarding the selection of candidates for the Scientific Commission, Dr Naomi Cogger has been proposed and approved by the Regional Commission to be put forward for the position of Vice-President.

Application from Korea (Rep. of) for a WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Reference Materials of Molecular Diagnostic Techniques in Aquatic and Terrestrial Animal Diseases

37. The Alternate Delegate of Korea (Rep. of), submitted a request to the Regional Commission in order for it to consider the National Institute of Fisheries Science, NIFS (under the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, MOF) and the Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency (under the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, MAFRA) as a WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Reference Materials of Molecular Diagnostic Techniques in Aquatic and Terrestrial Animal Diseases.
38. He provided a short presentation about NIFS and highlighted that the objective is to ensure the enhancement of diagnostic capabilities among WOAHA Members and strengthen infectious disease response capacity in the world.
39. He reported that all details had been sent to the Delegates in advance.
40. The proposal was approved unanimously by the Regional Commission.

Discussion on regional positions for WOAHA General Session

41. The Regional Commission discussed and agreed that a common position to be put forward at the 91st General Session on behalf of the 36 Members of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific, on the following items:
- Objection to adoption and request to delay discussion until the 92nd General Session of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* [Chapter 6.10](#) 'Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine', as the current language is creating confusion and needs further clarification.
- Removal of Article 8.Z.11. within [Chapter 8.Z](#) 'Infection with *Trypanosoma evansi* (Surra)'.

Closing

42. The meeting officially ended at 10:00 a.m. CEST.

**MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**
Session 1 (virtual)
14 May 2024

(7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Paris time)

Draft Agenda

- 6:45 a.m. – 7:00 a.m. Zoom check-in and connecting
- 7:00 a.m. – 7:05 a.m. Adoption of the agenda (Dr Baoxu Huang, President of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific and Delegate of China, PR)
- 7:05 a.m. – 7:15 a.m. Outcomes of the 33rd Conference of the Regional Commission, held in November 2023, in New Delhi, India (Ms Alka Upadhyaya, Delegate of India)
- 7:15 a.m. – 7:20 a.m. Confirmation of the dates and venue of the 34th Conference of the Regional Commission to be held in September 2025 (Dr Nuryanti Zainuddin, Alternate Delegate of Indonesia)
- 7:20 a.m. – 7:30 a.m. Selection of the Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 34th Conference of the Regional Commission (Dr Masatsugu Okita, Delegate of Japan)
- 7:30 a.m. – 7:40 a.m. Selection of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOAHP through various means (Scientific and Technical Review, Newsletter, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting) (Dr Ye Tu Win, Delegate of Myanmar)
- 7:40 a.m. – 7:55 a.m. Updates on the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) for Asia and the Pacific and endorsement of new chair and members for the RAWS Advisory Group (Dr Kate Littin, Chair of RAWS AG)
- 7:55 a.m. – 8:05 a.m. Updates on the facilitation of international horse movement project and harmonisation of health certificate (Dr Susanne Münsterman, Animal Health consultant)
- 8:05 a.m. – 8:20 a.m. 2025 Budgeted Work Programme – Income Estimates & Contribution Scale (Mr Xavier Pairault, WOAHP Director of Administration)
- 8:20 a.m. – 8:50 a.m. Analysis and evaluation of WOAHP's institutional, technical and financial governance (Dr François Caya, WOAHP Chief of Staff and Mr Eelco Szabo, external consultant)

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

- 8:50 a.m. – 9:05 a.m. Elections of the Specialist Commissions (Dr Montserrat Arroyo, Deputy Director General)
- 9:05 a.m. – 9:20 a.m. Elections: voting modalities and quorum (Dr François Caya and Mr Rodney De-Souza, Head of WOAHP Legal Affairs Unit)

- 9:20 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Council and the Specialist Commissions (Dr Ye Tu Win, Delegate of Myanmar)
- 9:50 a.m. – 9:55 a.m. Selection of additional member of RCG (Dr Ye Tu Win, Delegate of Myanmar)
- 9:55 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Closing (Dr Baoxu Huang, President)

Session 2 (face to face)
Monday, 27 May 2024
(Maison de la Chimie, Paris)

Draft Agenda

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

- 8:30 a.m. – 8:35 a.m. Adoption of the agenda (Dr Baoxu Huang, President of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific and Delegate of China, PR)
- 8:35 a.m. – 8:55 a.m. Confirmation of the main points agreed during the virtual meeting (including the proposed candidates and the technical topics) (Dr Baoxu Huang)
- 8:55 a.m. – 9:10 a.m. Application from Korea (Rep of) for a WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Reference Materials of Molecular Diagnostic Techniques in Aquatic and Terrestrial Animal Diseases (Dr Jung-Rok Choi, Delegate of Korea [Rep. of])
- 9:10 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. Discussion on regional positions for WOAHA General Session (Dr Masatsugu Okita, Delegate of Japan)
- 10:10 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Closing (Dr Baoxu Huang, President)

91GS/Admin-03/En
Original: English
May 2024

**Report of the Meeting of the
Regional Commission for Europe**

[Administrative Working Document]



Session 1 (virtual)

1. The Regional Commission for Europe met by videoconference on 16 May 2024, at 10:00 a.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 92 participants, including Delegates, Alternate Delegates and Representatives from 44 Members of the Commission, observers, and representatives from 4 International and Regional Organisations:

Members of the Commission: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Rep., Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Uzbekistan.

Observers: Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS).

International/regional organisations: European Commission (EC), Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Coalition for Animal Welfare (RSPCA-ICFAW).

2. The Meeting was chaired by Dr Maris Balodis, President of the Regional Commission for Europe, accompanied by Dr Budimir Plavsic, Regional Representative for Europe, who opened the virtual meeting and welcomed participants on behalf of Dr Monique Eloit, WOAHA Director General.

Adoption of the Agenda

3. Dr Balodis welcomed the Delegates and other participants, thanked them for their interest and participation in this first session of the Regional Commission meeting. He also reminded the assembled of the role of the Regional Commission. He underlined the importance of the forthcoming 91st General Session, during which the elections for the Director General, the Council, the Bureaus and the Specialists Commissions will be conducted. The Agenda, presented by the Chair in detail and described in the [Annex](#), was unanimously adopted.

Analysis and evaluation of WOAHA's institutional, technical and financial governance

4. Dr François Caya, WOAHA Chief of Staff, introduced Mr Eelco Szabo, a legal and governance consultant and part of a consortium mandated by WOAHA to undertake what is commonly referred to as the external review of WOAHA Basic Texts.
5. Mr Szabo, who has extensive experience in legal and governance frameworks across various international organisations, presented the in-depth analysis and review of the governance structures and processes of the Organisation reflected in the General Session working document [91GS/Adm-13](#) titled 'Analysis and evaluation of the institutional, technical and financial governance of WOAHA'. This external review, conducted over nine months, meticulously examined the foundational treaty, Basic Texts, numerous resolutions, and conducted interviews and workshops with members of WOAHA's governance bodies and relevant officials, including the Council. This comprehensive approach helped to understand the historical and current operational frameworks and identify areas for potential improvement in institutional, technical and financial governance.

6. Mr Szabo went on to provide an overview of the various focus areas detailed in the report and provided some relevant and concrete examples. Each focus area was analysed to recommend improvements that could enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of WOAAH's governance structures. For instance, institutional governance discussed could include revisiting the roles and responsibilities of WOAAH's governing bodies to ensure clarity and eliminate overlaps, while technical governance might focus on formalising procedures for standard-setting to ensure transparency and accountability.
7. Furthermore, the presentation emphasised the next steps in the governance review process, indicating the opportunity to be given to the Assembly during the upcoming General Session to explore the sustainability of current WOAAH's governance in future scenarios to be explored during the Forum 'Is WOAAH Ready for the Future?' Finally, Mr Szabó highlighted the importance of aligning WOAAH's governance structures with its current and future needs, suggesting that revisions to the Basic Texts and other governance documents may be necessary to address the evolving challenges in global animal health governance. As suggested in draft Resolution No. 12 'Revision of the WOAAH Basic Texts', this would involve a collective effort from all Members to engage in meaningful discussions and make informed decisions on the proposed changes, aiming for a governance framework that is robust, transparent and capable of meeting the Organisation's objectives effectively.

Preparation of the 31st Conference of the Regional Commission to be held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from 30 September to 4 October 2024

8. Dr Abrar Akbarov, Delegate of Uzbekistan, confirmed that his country was willing and honoured to host the 31st Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe from 30 September to 4 October 2024 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.
9. He reported briefly on the various arrangements Uzbekistan had made to start organising the conference. Dr Akbarov provided general information about the event, assuring the participants that all the details would be sent in a timely manner.

Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 31st Conference of the Regional Commission

10. The Regional Commission discussed the following proposals for Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 31st Conference of the Regional Commission, and will make a final decision during the second session on 27 May.
 1. Advancements in Veterinary Services through Digitalisation (Data Management, Veterinary Information Systems, Big Data, metalanguage, artificial intelligence)
 2. The economic aspects of biosecurity in animal production

Selection of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOAAH through various means (Scientific and Technical Review, Newsletter, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting).

11. The Regional Commission selected the following three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the WOAAH through various means:
 1. One Health
 2. Pandemic Preparedness
 3. Digitalisation of the Veterinary Services

Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe: presentation of the 4th Action Plan and of the Steering Group election process

12. Dr Estelle Hamelin, WOAAH Sub Regional Representative in Brussels, provided an update on WOAAH Platform on Animal Welfare, focusing on the development of the 4th Action Plan of the Platform for 2024–2026. The 4th Action Plan has been developed by considering the needs identified by WOAAH Members of the Regional Commission for Europe, the outcomes of and lessons learnt from past initiatives and the results of the external evaluation. The 4th Action Plan will ensure the continuity with the previous ones by building upon their achievements and retaining long-term objective to contribute to the improvement of animal welfare in Europe through the five priority topics (transport of animals by land and by sea, slaughter of animals, dog population management, welfare of working equids and welfare of animals during disasters). The 4th Action Plan has been proposed for formal adoption during the Regional Commission's meeting on 27 May 2024. In addition, Dr Hamelin recalled the role and responsibility of the Steering Group (SG) of the Platform. The SG elected members have a 3-year renewable mandate, and elections are foreseen this year. By the time of the meeting, three members' candidacies had been received. The Regional Commission for Europe will confirm a new composition of the SG during its next meeting.

2025 Budgeted Work Programme – Income Estimates & Contribution Scale

13. Mr Xavier Pairault, WOAAH Director of Administration, explained the rationale behind the proposal of increasing the statutory contributions rates by 6.9% for 2025.
14. Mr Pairault reminded the Regional Commission that: 1) discussions regarding the financial sustainability of WOAAH regular budget started during the Council meeting in September 2021, mainly considering the impact of the digitalisation as well as the growing number and types of activities supported by WOAAH in order to respond to its Member's needs; 2) an extraordinary Council meeting held in December 2021 supported the proposal presented and was finally accepted by the Assembly in 2022, increasing the statutory contributions of 30% over the period 2023–2025, with a 15% increase adopted for 2023 and a 7.5% foreseen increase for 2024 and 2025; 3) an explanatory note was shared with Delegates explaining the rationale behind the increase proposed in 2022; 4) the high inflation rate and deteriorated economic situation led to a request and a vote at the 2023 General Session for a 15% increase for 2024 instead of the originally anticipated 7.5%.
15. The Director of Administration then detailed the key factors taken into account to support the evolution of the statutory contributions, namely: 1) a robust financial management and performance in 2023, enabling WOAAH to absorb increased costs; 2) the confirmation of decreasing inflation rate for 2024 and 2025 with a temporary favourable impact; 3) the new financial policy framework and commitment tracking tool leading to better budgetary planning and financial oversight; 4) a 2025 work programme supported by 60 quantitative indicators with an improved transparency and hopefully efficiency as well; 5) any request for increased contributions should also consider the 'Analysis and evaluation of the institutional, technical, and financial governance of WOAAH' – see [91GS/Adm-13](#).
16. Mr Pairault closed by informing that based on the above factors, the 2025 contribution scale has been revised with a +6.9% increase – only applying the 2023 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Total Consumer Price Index (OECD – Total CPI) as per Resolution 15 of the 2018 General Session.

Closed session for Delegates only

Elections of the Specialist Commissions

17. Dr Francois Caya presented on behalf of Dr Monserrat Arroyo, WOAHA Deputy Director General.
18. Dr Caya described the overall process for the election of WOAHA's Specialist Commissions, focusing on the selection process from the beginning, including the initial call for candidates, the evaluation process, the agreed list by the Council, and the final election process that will take place on Tuesday 28 May 2024 within the first administrative session of the General Session.
19. He highlighted the open call and evaluation of both the new candidates for election to the Specialist Commissions, as well as the evaluation of the current Specialist Commissions member's performance through a standardised process based on the Performance Management Framework.
20. Dr Caya closed his intervention by reminding the Delegates of their roles during each step of the elections.

Elections: voting modalities and quorum

21. Mr Rodney De-Souza, Head of WOAHA Legal Affairs Unit, briefly presented the voting modalities and reminded the assembled of the required quorum and majorities for the elections.
22. Regarding WOAHA's Director General elections, following a request from France, it was agreed to consult on the possibility of prohibiting mobile phones in the voting booth. The final decision will be communicated.

Elections: information about candidates for the Council

23. Dr Maris Balodis chaired the discussion regarding the proposal of candidates to be presented to the World Assembly for election for the Council on Tuesday 28 May.
24. The following candidates expressed their interest to join the Council (by alphabetical order):
 - Dr Susana Pombo (Delegate of Portugal) (as President of the Council)
 - Dr Konstantin Savenkov (Delegate of Russia) (as Member)
 - Dr Christine Middlemiss (Delegate of the United Kingdom) (as Member)

Elections: selection of candidates for the Bureau

25. Dr Maris Balodis chaired the discussion regarding the selection of candidates for the Bureau. Dr Plavsic explained the election process.
26. Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

President: Dr Maris Balodis (Delegate of Latvia)

Vice-President: Dr Ulrich Herzog (Delegate of Austria)

Vice-President: Dr Vasili Basiladze (Delegate of Georgia),

Secretary General: Dr Nikolche Babovski (Delegate of North Macedonia)

Elections: selection of candidates for the Specialist Commissions

27. Dr Maris Balodis chaired the discussion regarding the selection of candidates to be presented to the World Assembly for election for the Specialist Commissions on Tuesday 28 May.

28. Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Fiona Geoghegan, Ireland

Dr Saraya Tavompanich, Norway

Biologic Standards Commission

Dr Ann Cullinane, Ireland

Dr Donald King, United Kingdom

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Dr Sylvia Bellini, Italy

Dr Jan Arend Stegeman, The Netherlands

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Etienne Bonbon, France

Dr Romero Gonzalez, Spain

29. Ms Nathaly Monsalve, WOA Regional Activities Coordination Manager of the Regional Activities Department (RAD), provided information on the scheduled Regional Exhibitions during the General Session, aimed at showcasing the key activities conducted by WOA at regional level.

Closing

30. Dr Balodis read the draft agenda for the Regional Commission session on 27 May.

31. The meeting officially ended at 13.05. p.m. CEST.

Session 2 (face to face)

Closed Session for Delegates only

32. The Regional Commission for Europe met face to face on 27 May 2024, at 8:30 a.m. CEST at the Maison de la Chimie. The meeting was attended by 46 Members of the Commission and one observer:

Members of the Commission: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Rep., Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan,, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldavia, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia,, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Uzbekistan.

Observers: European Commission.

33. The Meeting was chaired by Dr Maris Balodis, President of the Regional Commission for Europe, accompanied by Dr Budimir Plavsic, Regional Representative for Europe.

Adoption of the Agenda

34. The Agenda, described in the annex was unanimously adopted.

Confirmation of the main points agreed during the virtual meeting (including the proposed candidates and the technical topics)

35. The President of the Regional Commission summarised the main points discussed during the virtual meeting held on 16 May 2024, at 10:00 a.m. CEST, allowing the Regional Commission to confirm the main points agreed, namely the strategic topics proposed to be addressed by WOAHA through various means and the candidates proposed by the region to be presented to the World Assembly for the election to the Council, the Bureau of the Regional Commission and the Specialist Commissions.

Report of the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Europe of activities 2022–2024

36. Dr Balodis presented the 2022-2024 report of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, reminding of the challenges due to diseases such as African Swine Fever, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, rabies and brucellosis, the importance of One Health approach and continuous support to strengthen Veterinary Services.
37. He also reminded the Commission on the topics addressed during Regional Conference held in Catania giving a focus on animal welfare activities benefiting from the dynamic leadership by the Bureau.
38. He finalised by mentioning the activities of the Bureau and the Regional Core Group in preparation of the General Session, the elections, revision of the Basic Texts, and the organisation of the next Regional Conference to be held in Samarkand in September–October 2024.

Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 31st Conference of the Regional Commission – Part 2

39. Dr Balodis presented the technical item II topic selection that was opened for a vote on the WOOCCLAP online app. The topics that have been retained were:

1. Advancements in the Veterinary Services through Digitalisation (Data Management, Veterinary Information Systems, Big Data, Meta Language, Artificial Intelligence)
2. The Economic Aspects of Biosecurity in Animal Production

40. The Delegates adopted the first technical item ‘*Advancements in the Veterinary Services through Digitalisation (Data Management, Veterinary Information Systems, Big Data, Meta Language, Artificial Intelligence)*’ with 26 votes in favour out of the 46 Delegates of the Region that were present in the room.

Adoption of 4th Action Plan of the Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe

41. Dr Estelle Hamelin presented the 4th Action Plan on Animal Welfare Platform for Europe. The 4th Action Plan of the Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe was proposed for adoption to the Regional Commission for Europe and was adopted with 42 votes in favour out of the 46 Delegates of the Region that were present in the room.

Election of Members of new Steering Group

42. Dr Herzog took participants through the election process with the help of the Secretariat using the WOOCCLAP online app. 5 Members of the Regional Commission applied to be one of the 5 elected members of the new Steering Group of the Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe: Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ireland, Israel and Portugal.

43. The elected Members were elected as a unit with 43 votes in favour.

Elections: selection of candidates for the Specialist Commissions

44. Dr Maris Balodis chaired the confirmation of the positions of selected candidates to be presented to the World Assembly for election for the Specialist Commissions on Tuesday 28 May.

45. Delegates of the Region unanimously agreed on the following proposed names:

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Fiona Geoghegan (Ireland) as Vice-President

Dr Saraya Tavompanich (Norway) as Member

Biologic Standards Commission

Dr Ann Cullinane (Ireland) as Vice-President

Dr Donald King (United Kingdom) as Member

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Dr Sylvia Bellini (Italy) as Vice-President

Dr Jan Arend Stegeman (The Netherlands) as Member

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Etienne Bonbon (France) as President

Dr Romero Gonzalez (Spain) as Member

Report of activities within the GF-TADs mechanism in Europe, Action Plan 2023–2027, Regional coordination mechanism

46. Dr Bernard Van Goethem, Director, DG Health and Food Safety, European Commission presented the report of the GF-TADs activities for 2023-2024. He gave specific focus on the following points:
- continuing activity of the disease groups, SGE on ASF, on HPAI, on LSD, on Rabies; mechanisms for FMD and PPR.
 - focus on maintaining coordination and engaging with all stakeholders: attempting to measure progress where achievable; increasing efficiency and impact and implementing the regional action plan to best reply to Member needs.

Any Other Business

47. The Delegate from Türkiye asked if the issue of the circulation of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza in cattle could be further discussed at regional level. The European Commission reminded that a side event meeting dedicated to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza will be held on Tuesday 28 May at 5.15 p.m.

Closing

48. The meeting officially ended at 9.30 a.m. CEST.

**MEETINGS OF THE
REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**
Session 1 (virtual)
16 May 2024

(10:00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Paris time, virtual)

Draft Agenda

- 09:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Zoom check-in and connecting
- 10:00 a.m. – 10:05 a.m. Opening, adoption of the agenda (Dr Maris Balodis, President of the Regional Commission for Europe and Delegate of Latvia)
- 10:05 a.m. – 10:35 a.m. Analysis and evaluation of WOAHA's institutional, technical and financial governance (Dr François Caya, WOAHA Chief of staff and Mr Eelco Szabo, external consultant)
- 10:35 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. Preparation of the 31st Conference of the Regional Commission to be held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from 30 September to 4 October 2024 (Dr Abrar Akbarov, Delegate of Uzbekistan)
- 10:50 a.m. – 11:05 a.m. Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 31st Conference of the Regional Commission – Part 1 (Dr Maris Balodis)
- 11:05 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Proposal of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOAHA through various means (Scientific Review, Newsletter, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting) (Dr Ulrich Herzog, First Vice-President of the Regional Commission for Europe and Delegate of Austria)
- 11:15 a.m. – 11:35 a.m. Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe: presentation of the 4th Action Plan and of the Steering Group election process (Dr Estelle Hamelin, WOAHA Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels)
- 11:35 a.m. – 11:50 p.m. 2025 Budgeted Work Programme – Income Estimates & Contribution Scale (Mr Xavier Pairault, WOAHA Director of Administration)
- 11:50 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Break

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

- 12:00 p.m. – 12:15 p.m. Elections of the Specialist Commissions (Dr François Caya, WOAHA Chief of staff)
- 12:15 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. Elections: voting modalities and quorum (Dr François Caya and Mr Rodney De-Souza, Head of WOAHA Legal Affairs Unit)
- 12:30 p.m. – 12:35 p.m. Elections: information about candidates for Council (Dr Maris Balodis)
- 12:35 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. Elections: selection of candidates for Bureau (Dr Maris Balodis)
- 12:45 p.m. – 12:55 p.m. Elections: selection of candidates for the Specialist Commissions (Dr Maris Balodis)
- 12:55 p.m. Closing

Session 2 (face to face)
Monday, 27 May 2024
(Maison de la Chimie, Paris)

Draft Agenda

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

8:30 a.m.– 8:35 a.m.	Adoption of the agenda (Dr Maris Balodis, President of the Regional Commission for Europe and Delegate of Latvia)
8:35 a.m. – 8:55 a.m.	Confirmation of the main points agreed during the virtual meeting (including the proposals of candidates and the technical topics) (Dr Maris Balodis)
8:55 a.m. – 9:10 a.m.	Report of the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Europe of activities 2022–2024 (Dr Maris Balodis)
9:10 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.	Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 31st Conference of the Regional Commission – Part 2 (Dr Maris Balodis)
9:20 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Adoption of 4th Action Plan of Animal Welfare Platform for Europe (Dr Estelle Hamelin, WOAAH Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels)
9:30 a.m. – 9:40 a.m.	Election of Members of new Steering Group (Dr Ulrich Herzog, Chair of Animal Welfare Platform for Europe)
9:40 a.m. – 9:55 a.m.	Report of activities within the GF-TADs mechanism in Europe, Action Plan 2023–2027, Regional coordination mechanism (Dr Bernard Van Goethem, Director, DG Health and Food Safety, European Commission)
9:55 a.m.	Closing

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**Report of the Meeting of the
Regional Commission for the Middle East**

[Administrative Working Document]



Session 1 (virtual)

1. The Regional Commission for the Middle East met by videoconference on 15 May 2024, at 9:00 a.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 48 participants, including Delegates from 15 Members of the Commission, 3 observers, and representatives from 4 International and Regional Organisations:

Members of the Commission: Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Observers: Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority (ADAFSA), Collaborating Center for Emerging Aquatic Animal Diseases (CEFAS), Norwegian Veterinary Institute (NVI)

International/regional organisations: Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW)

2. The Meeting was chaired by Dr Sanad Alharbi, President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East and Delegate of Saudi Arabia.

Adoption of the Agenda

3. The Agenda, described in the [Annex](#), was unanimously adopted.

Analysis and evaluation of WOAHA's institutional, technical, and financial governance

4. Dr François Caya, WOAHA Chief of Staff, introduced Mr Eelco Szabo, a legal and governance consultant and part of a consortium mandated by WOAHA to undertake what is commonly referred to as the external review of WOAHA Basic Texts.
5. Mr Szabo, who has extensive experience in legal and governance frameworks across various international organisations, presented the in-depth analysis and review of the governance structures and processes of the Organisation reflected in the General Session working document [91GS/Adm-13](#) titled 'Analysis and evaluation of the institutional, technical, and financial governance of WOAHA'. This external review, conducted over nine months, meticulously examined the foundational treaty, Basic Texts, numerous resolutions, and conducted interviews and workshops with members of WOAHA's governance bodies and relevant officials, including the Council. This comprehensive approach helped to understand the historical and current operational frameworks and identify areas for potential improvement in institutional, technical and financial governance.
6. Mr Szabo went on providing an overview of the various focus areas detailed in the report and provided some relevant and concrete examples. Each focus area was analysed to recommend improvements that could enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of WOAHA's governance structures. For instance, institutional governance discussed could include revisiting the roles and responsibilities of WOAHA's governing bodies to ensure clarity and eliminate overlaps, while technical governance might focus on formalising procedures for standard-setting to ensure transparency and accountability.

7. Furthermore, the presentation emphasised the next steps in the governance review process, indicating the opportunity to be given to the Assembly during the upcoming General Session to explore the sustainability of current WOAHS governance in future scenarios, to be explored during the Forum 'Is WOAHS Ready for the Future?' Finally, Mr Szabo highlighted the importance of aligning WOAHS governance structures with its current and future needs, suggesting that revisions to the Basic Texts and other governance documents may be necessary to address the evolving challenges in global animal health governance. As suggested in draft Resolution No. 12 'Revision of the WOAHS Basic Texts', this would involve a collective effort from all Members to engage in meaningful discussions and make informed decisions on the proposed changes, aiming for a governance framework that is robust, transparent and capable of meeting the Organisation's objectives effectively.
8. Bahrain, member of the Council, strongly encouraged all the Members of the Region to read the related working document and to agree on the approach suggested in the Draft Resolution 12.

***Outcomes of the 17th Conference of the Regional Commission,
held in September 2023, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia***

9. Dr Sanad Alharbi, Delegate of Saudi Arabia, briefly described the main conclusions from the topics presented and discussed during the 17th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East, which was attended by a total of 57 participants, comprising WOAHS Delegates and representatives of 10 Members of the Region and senior officers from 8 regional, international, and national organisations and institutions.
10. Dr Alharbi mentioned, among others, four key points that the Conference underlined: 1) successful cross-sectoral collaboration is critical to face the current challenges and to ensure effective implementation of the One Health National Action Plans; 2) the need for governments to deploy all efforts including developing a regional strategy, creating an enabling environment for cooperation, collaboration and solidarity between Members in the region; 3) the critical need to strengthen existing national financial mechanisms and actively seek alternative financial arrangements. The conference called for action by Members and partners to consider potential regional investment opportunities. And 4) the need to provide investments through the World Fund to support activities in the Middle East region that will ensure the intensification of WOAHS activities in the region and therefore help to position it as a global leader in animal health and biosecurity.
11. Finally, he reminded the Delegates that two recommendations regarding the two technical items of the Conference (TI 1: One Health: Coordination and Cooperation between Veterinary, Public Health and Environmental Protection Services, and TI 2: Ensuring strong performing and financially sustainable Veterinary Services in the Region) were adopted by the Regional Commission. Both recommendations will be presented to the World Assembly for endorsement.

***Confirmation of the dates and venue of the 18th Conference of the
Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in November 2025***

12. Dr Christodoulos Pipis, Delegate of Cyprus, reiterated his country's offer to host the 18th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East in November 2025. Exact dates will be defined at a later stage in consultation with the WOAHS Director General.

***Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the
18th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East***

13. The Regional Commission selected the following technical item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 18th Conference of the Regional Commission.

'Improving capacity to implement assessment of socio-economic impacts of transboundary animal diseases (with focus on FMD and PPR)'

Selection of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOAAH through various means (Scientific and Technical Review, Newsletter, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting)

14. The Regional Commission selected the following three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOAAH through various means:
1. 'Global collaboration in risk-based surveillance, early warning of animal diseases, and the safe movement of animals.'
 2. 'Emphasising Veterinary Services' role in preventing zoonotic diseases at the human–animal–environment interface and enabling early detection, prevention and control of high-pandemic-potential viral diseases.'
 3. 'Tackling the growing concern of AMR and its impact on animal and human health, while seeking strategies to minimise the impact of veterinary antimicrobial agents in the environment.'

Application from Egypt for WOAAH Collaborating Centre for Fish Health Management in the Middle East hosted by Central Laboratory for Aquaculture Research (CLAR) in Egypt

15. Dr Ihab Saber, Delegate of Egypt, submitted a request to the Regional Commission in order for it to consider the Central Laboratory for Aquaculture Research (CLAR) in Egypt as a WOAAH Collaborating Centre for Fish Health Management in the Middle East.
16. He provided a short presentation about CLAR and reported that all details had been sent to the Delegates in advance.
17. The proposal was approved unanimously by the Regional Commission.

2025 Budgeted Work Programme – Income Estimates and Contribution Scale

18. Mr Xavier Pairault, WOAAH Director of Administration, explained the rationale behind the proposal of increasing the statutory contributions rates by 6.9% for 2025.
19. Mr Pairault reminded the Regional Commission that: 1) discussions regarding the financial sustainability of WOAAH regular budget started during the Council meeting in September 2021, considering mainly the impact of the digitalisation as well as the growing number and types of activities supported by WOAAH in order to respond to its Member's needs; 2) an extraordinary Council meeting held in December 2021 supported the proposal presented and was finally accepted by the Assembly in 2022, increasing the statutory contributions of 30% over the period 2023–2025, with a 15% increase adopted for 2023 and a 7.5% foreseen increase for 2024 and 2025; 3) an explanatory note was shared with Delegates explaining the rationale behind the increase proposed in 2022; 4) the high inflation rate and deteriorated economic situation led to a request and a vote at the 2023 General Session for a 15% increase for 2024 instead of the originally anticipated 7.5%.
20. The Director of Administration then detailed the key factors taken into account to support the evolution of the statutory contributions namely: 1) a robust financial management and performance in 2023, enabling WOAAH to absorb increased costs; 2) the confirmation of decreasing inflation rate for 2024 and 2025 with a temporary favourable impact; 3) the new financial policy framework and commitment tracking tool leading to better budgetary planning and financial oversight; 4) a 2025 work programme supported by 60 quantitative indicators with an improved transparency and, hopefully, efficiency as well; 5) any request for increased contributions should also consider the 'Analysis and evaluation of the institutional, technical and financial governance of WOAAH' – see [91GS/Adm-13](#).

21. Mr Pairault closed by informing that based on the above factors, the 2025 contribution scale has been revised with a +6.9% increase – only applying the 2023 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Total Consumer Price Index (OECD – Total CPI) as per Resolution 15 of the 2018 General Session.

WOAH Regions' kiosk

22. Ms Nathaly Monsalve, WOA Regional Activities Coordination Manager of the Regional Activities Department (RAD), provided information on the scheduled Regional kiosk during the General Session aimed at showcasing the key activities conducted by WOA at regional level. She encouraged Delegates to visit the kiosk and interact with colleagues from the Regions.

Closed session for Delegates only

Elections of the Specialist Commissions

23. Dr Montserrat Arroyo, Deputy Director General of International Standards and Science, described the overall process for the election of WOA's Specialist Commissions, focusing on the selection process from the beginning, including the initial call for candidates, the evaluation process, the agreed list by the Council, and the final election process that will take place on Tuesday 28 May 2024 within the first administrative session of the General Session.
24. She highlighted the open call and evaluation of both, the new candidates for election to the Specialist Commissions, as well as the evaluation of the current Specialist Commissions member's performance through a standardised process based on the Performance Management Framework.
25. Dr Arroyo closed her intervention by reminding the Delegates of their roles during each step of the elections.

Elections: voting modalities and quorum

26. Mr Rodney De-Souza, Head of WOA Legal Affairs Unit, briefly presented the voting modalities and reminded the assembled of the required quorum and majorities for the elections.

Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Council and the Specialist Commissions

27. Dr Ibtihal Khreesha, Delegate of Jordan, chaired the discussion regarding the proposal of candidates to be presented to the World Assembly for election on Tuesday 28 May.
28. The Delegates of the Region agreed on the following proposed names:

Council:

Dr Fajer Al Salloom, Delegate of Bahrain (as Vice-President)

Bureau of the Regional Commission:

President: Dr Sanad Alharbi (Delegate of Saudi Arabia)

Vice-President: Dr Christodoulos Pipis (Delegate of Cyprus)

Vice-President: Dr Samah Al Sharif (Delegate of Oman)

Secretary General: Dr Elias Ibrahim (Delegate of Lebanon)

Specialist Commissions:

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region did not propose any candidate.

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region did not propose any candidate.

Biologic Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region did not propose any candidate.

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

The Delegates of the Region did not propose any candidate.

Closing

29. The meeting officially ended at 12:00 p.m. CEST.

Session 2 (face to face)

Closed Session for Delegates only

30. The Regional Commission for the Middle East met face to face on 27 May 2024, at 8:30 a.m. CEST at the Maison de la Chimie in Paris. The meeting was attended by 11 Members of the Commission:

Members of the Commission: Bahrain, Cyprus, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudia Arabia, Türkiye and United Arab Emirates

31. The Meeting was chaired by Dr Sanad Alharbi, President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East and Delegate of Saudi Arabia.

Adoption of the Agenda

32. The Agenda, described in the [Annex](#), was unanimously adopted.

Confirmation of the main points agreed during the virtual meeting (including the proposed candidates and the technical topics)

33. The President of the Regional Commission summarised the main points discussed during the virtual meeting held on 15 May 2024, at 9:00 a.m. CEST, allowing the Regional Commission to confirm the main points agreed, namely the technical item proposed for the forthcoming Regional Conference, the strategic topics proposed to be addressed by WOAHP through various means, the candidates proposed by the region to be presented to the World Assembly for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Council and the Specialist Commissions.

On the road to UNGA '24, High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

34. Dr Holy Teneg Akwar, Deputy Head of WOAHP Antimicrobial Resistance and Veterinary Products Department, started by reminding that the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) High-level Meeting (HLM) on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), held in 2016, in its political declaration called for urgency and actions to AMR response. Since then, progress has been made but insufficient to tackle the existential global health and socioeconomic threats posed by AMR.
35. He stressed that the 2024 UNGA HLM on AMR provides an opportunity for world leaders to agree on an inspiring vision, commitments and actions to save lives; protect countries from the growing impacts of AMR on human health, agrifood system, animals, plants and the environment; safeguard economies; address inequities including gender inequality and ensure that effective antimicrobials are available and affordable when needed for current and future generations.
36. Dr Akwar indicated that the Quadripartite organisations (FAO, UNEP, WHO, WOAHP) are calling for an accelerated response to AMR to be considered by Member States at the UNGA-HLM on AMR in September 2024. The Quadripartite Joint Secretariat (QJS) for AMR, has developed a policy brief to inform this HLM on AMR key areas.
37. He then informed the assembled that WOAHP has also developed its advocacy priorities in line with those of the QJS as follows: 1) implementation of effective cross-sectoral coordination, 2) resource surveillance systems, 3) prioritize prevention; and 4) set adequate funding.
38. Finally, Dr Teneg Akwar urged the Regional Commission for the Middle East to help to promote these key priorities among its Members, Permanent Representatives in New York, ministries of health and finance, and other regional bodies and events.

**WOAH support – Towards Zero by 30:
Dog-mediated rabies control in the Middle East**

39. Dr Gregorio Torres, Head of Sciences Department, provided the Regional Commission with details about WOAHA's support on rabies control and elimination, underlining that rabies elimination serves as a model for operationalising the One Health concept.
40. He indicated that several countries in the Middle East have the potential to become champions in the fight to end human deaths caused by dog-mediated rabies and thus urged Members to identify national points of contact for rabies and, in collaboration with public health authorities, to develop and implement their national strategic programmes to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030.
41. He reminded Delegates that the existing tools and expertise from the United Against Rabies and WOAHA are available to support national rabies elimination efforts. This includes access to high quality rabies vaccines through the WOAHA Vaccine Bank, increase their diagnostic capacity using the WOAHA reference laboratory network, access to education and awareness material, among others. Members should also consider the WOAHA International standards to implement their dog population management strategies, including the promotion of responsible dog ownership.
42. Dr Torres also mentioned that integrating public-private partnerships into rabies control strategies remains crucial to mobilise adequate resources and increase the impact and sustainability of the interventions.
43. He invited Members to apply for the WOAHA endorsement of the official control programme to maximise their country's effort against rabies and eventually self-declare free from dog-mediated rabies.
44. Dr Al Majali, Member of Jordan Delegation, and Dr Noroozi Mojtaba, Delegate for Iran, asked for further details regarding vaccination efficiency on roaming dogs.

The Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) data and insights for investment case development and strategic decision-making

45. Ms Jennifer Lasley, Senior Programme Coordinator, WOAHA Capacity-Building Department, informed the Regional Commission that WOAHA has developed the PVS Information System (IS) so that its digitalisation could lead to greater impact of the PVS Pathway. Through innovative data visualisation and analysis techniques, WOAHA has unlocked valuable text data. This allows governments, investors and partners to access, use and act upon the recommendations more easily, efficiently and strategically.
46. She finally explained that the key features of the PVS IS allow users to:
- view performance data and trends across historical data for the first time through dashboards, based on data extracted from PVS reports;
 - explore recommendations, strengths, weaknesses and findings for each Critical Competency;
 - explore Critical Competencies and Levels of Advancement;
 - preview Evaluation reports through collapsible and expandable features;
 - view all past PVS reports in Portable Document Format (pdf), and
 - see historical PVS Pathway engagement.

Any other business

47. The Delegate of Iran officially expressed his disagreement with the name of the Sub-regional Representation for the Arabian Gulf, and the fact that the Persian Gulf was not taken into account. He submitted a letter to the President of the Regional Commission in this regard.
48. Dr Fajer Al Salloom and Dr Alhosani explained that the name of the Sub-regional representation has been approved by the World Assembly of Delegates through Resolution No. 29 of 2023 'Change of name of certain Sub-Regional Representations and of one Regional Commission', adopted during the 90th General Session and available in the respective General Session report.

Closing

49. The meeting officially ended at 10:30 a.m.

**MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

Session 1 (virtual)

15 May 2024

(9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Paris time)

Draft Agenda

8:45 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.	Zoom check-in and connecting
9:05 a.m. – 9:10 a.m.	Adoption of the agenda (Dr Sanad Alharbi, President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East and Delegate of Saudi Arabia)
9:10 a.m. – 9:40 a.m.	Analysis and evaluation of WOAHA's institutional, technical and financial governance (Dr François Caya, WOAHA Chief of Staff and Mr Eelco Szabo, external consultant).
9:40 a.m. – 9:55 a.m.	Outcomes of the 17th Conference of the Regional Commission, held in September 2023, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (Dr Sanad Alharbi)
9:55 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Confirmation of the dates and venue of the 18th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in November 2025 (Dr Christodoulos Pipis, Delegate of Cyprus).
10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Selection of Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 18th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East (Dr Fajer Al Salloom, Council Member and Delegate of Bahrain)
10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Proposal of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOAHA through various means (Scientific and Technical Review, Newsletter, scientific paper, technical item, or during a specific activity/meeting) (Dr Fajer Al Salloom, Council Member and Delegate of Bahrain)
10:30 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.	Application from Egypt for WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Fish Health Management in the Middle East hosted by Central Laboratory for Aquaculture Research (CLAR) in Egypt (Dr Ihab Saber, Delegate of Egypt)
10:50 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.	2025 Budgeted Work Programme – Income Estimates & Contribution Scale (Mr Xavier Pairault, WOAHA Director of Administration)

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

11:05 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.	Elections of the Specialist Commissions (Dr Montserrat Arroyo, Deputy Director General)
11:20 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.	Elections voting modalities and quorum (Dr François Caya and Mr Rodney De-Souza, Head of WOAHA Legal Affairs Unit)
11:35 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.	Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Council, and the Specialist Commissions (Dr Ibtihal Khreesha, Delegate of Jordan)
11:55 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Closing

Session 2 (face to face)

Monday, 27 May 2024
(Maison de la Chimie, Paris)

Draft Agenda

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

08:30 a.m. – 08:35 a.m.	Adoption of the agenda (Dr Sanad Alharbi, President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East and Delegate of Saudi Arabia)
08:35 a.m. – 08:55 a.m.	Confirmation of the main points agreed during the virtual meeting (including the proposed candidates and the technical topics) (Dr Sanad Alharbi).
08:55 a.m. – 09:15 a.m.	On the road to UNGA '24, High-Level Meeting on AMR (Dr Holy Teneg Akwar, Antimicrobial Resistance and Veterinary Products Department)
09:15 a.m. – 09:35 a.m.	WOAH support – Towards Zero by 30: Dog-mediated rabies control in the Middle East (Dr Gregorio Torres, Head of the Sciences Department)
09:35 a.m. – 09:55 a.m.	PVS data and insights for investment case development and strategic decision-making (Ms Jennifer Lasley, Capacity Building Department)
09:55 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Update on the activities of the Regional and Sub-regional Representation (Dr Mohamed Alhosani, Acting Regional Representative and Sub-regional Representative)
10:15 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.	Discussion
10:25 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Closure