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**ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL
(between May 2023 and May 2024)**

Administrative Working Document



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

1. Each year since the 75th General Session, the Council has reported on its activities to the Assembly. Since its meeting in September 2022, the detailed minutes of the meetings of the Council are made available on the Delegates' Portal to keep them informed of the activities of the Council.
2. Since the 90th General Session, the Council, chaired by the President of WOAHA, Dr Hugo Federico Idoyaga Benítez (Paraguay), has met twice for regular meetings: from 26 to 28 September 2023 and from 5 to 8 March 2024. Both meetings were held face-to-face at WOAHA Headquarters (Paris).
3. To progress the work related to the external review of WOAHA Basic Texts, two (2) extraordinary meetings of the Council were held virtually on 13 December 2023 and on 21 February 2024. The active involvement of the overall Council throughout the work on the Basic Texts was crucial for the completion of the external review report which is accessible through the General Session working document titled [91GS Adm-13](#) - *Analysis and evaluation of the institutional, technical, and financial governance of the World Organisation for Animal Health*.

At the meeting in [September 2023](#), the Council:

4. Recognised the strong contribution to WOAHA of Dr Christianne Brusckhe (Member of the Council – The Netherlands) who had passed away a few days before the meeting.
5. Welcomed the new elected members of the Council: Dr Wilmer Juarez (Nicaragua - member Americas) and Dr Susana Pombo (Vice President - Portugal).
6. Discussed the past 90th General Session, planning for the 91st General Session in 2024, and updates on various WOAHA initiatives including emergency management, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and the Observatory programme. A key topic was the revision of WOAHA's Basic Texts, recognising the need for agility in governance to meet future challenges.
7. Examined institutional and administrative issues, including the cooperation agreements and the performance of WOAHA's pension fund. A strategic approach was also outlined for the 100th WOAHA anniversary celebrations in 2024, emphasizing the legacy and future of animal health governance. The meeting highlighted the ongoing digital transformation in WOAHA, with updates on IT project management and digitalisation of PVS (Performance of Veterinary Services) mission reports.
8. Moreover, the meeting covered strategic initiatives like the Aquatic Animal Health Strategy, reflecting WOAHA's adaptive strategies in response to global health challenges. Discussions also focused on optimising resource allocation and enhancing Member's engagement through regional networks and capacity-building efforts.

At the meeting in [March 2024](#), the Council:

9. Focused on the 91st General Session's preparation, where logistical arrangements and programme scheduling were discussed. This included the approach to the election procedures for the Director General and other governance bodies. Furthermore, the Council addressed the necessity of integrating the outcomes from the external review of the Basic Texts to ensure robust discussion during the General Session's Forum
10. Interviewed Dr Luis Barcos (Argentina) and Dr Emmanuelle Soubeyran (France), both candidates for the election of the Director General position. In accordance with the article 26 of the General Rules, the President then sent a letter to all Members informing that both candidates were qualified.

11. Reviewed and commented upon several administrative and financial General Session's working documents.
12. Discussed the detailed reviews of the organisation's financial framework and the implementation of the 7th Strategic Plan. Discussions also covered the financial performance of the organisation.
13. Finally, the meeting covered the need for advancing technological initiatives, including improvements in the WAHIS data governance and the introduction of the Standards Online Navigation Tool to enhance user access to WOAAH standards.

14. The Council members, within their respective regions, participated at the following Conferences of Regional Commissions; the 17th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East, held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from 1 to 5 October 2023; and the 33rd Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific, held in New Delhi, India from 13 to 16 November 2023
15. Besides participating in important events held in their respective regions, the members of the Council were regularly in contact with the Delegates in their region to prepare and report on meetings of the Council, notably on the occasion of Regional Core Group meetings.

16. The Council will meet in plenary session at WOAAH Headquarters (Paris, France) on Thursday 23 and Friday 24 May 2024 to prepare the 91st General Session. In compliance with Resolution XVII of 28 May 2004 relating to the creation of a World Animal Health and Welfare Fund (the World Fund), the 17th meeting of the Management Committee of the World Fund, at which two members of the Council will participate, will take place on 23 May 2024 to examine and approve the activity and financial reports presented by the Headquarters.
17. The two Auditors, members of the Council, will meet the Directorate of Administration/Accounting Unit on 23 May 2024 to audit the accounts of WOAAH.

18. For the record, the composition of the Council as of 24 May 2024 is shown in Annex I.

COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL (24 MAY 2024)

Dr Hugo Federico Idoyaga Benítez (Paraguay)	President
Dr Mark Schipp (Australia)	Past President
Dr Susana Pombo (Portugal)	Vice-President
Dr Komla Batassé Batawui (Togo)	member
Dr Roland Xolani Dlamini (Eswatini)	member
Dr Him Hoo Yap (Singapore)	member
Dr Wilmer Juarez (Nicaragua)	member
Dr Konstantin Savenkov (Russia)	member
Dr Fajer Sabah Al Salloom (Bahrain)	member
