



91 GS/ Final Report
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Final Report

91st General Session
Paris, 26-30 May 2024



Contents

Introduction	5
General Session Preparatory Activities.....	5
Sunday, 26 May 2024.....	6
Opening Session	6
Announcement of the winners of the WOAHP Photo Competition	8
Presentation of the WOAHP Honorary Awards	9
Monday, 27 May 2024	9
Meetings of the Regional Commissions (91 GS/Adm-03).....	9
Forum: Is WOAHP ready for the future? (91 GS/Adm-13)	9
Tuesday, 28 May 2024	10
First Administrative Session.....	10
Adoption of the Provisional Programme of the General Session (91 GS/Adm-01)	10
Nomination of the Sub-Commission for the Agenda of the 91st General Session	10
Nomination of the Credentials Committee	10
Activities of the WOAHP Regional Commissions (91 GS/Adm-02 and Adm-03).....	11
Elections Process	11
Election of the Director General.....	11
Election of the President of the Assembly.....	12
Election of the Vice-President of the Assembly	12
Election of the Members of the Council	13
Election of the Bureaus of Regional Commissions	13
Election of the Members of the Specialist Commissions (91 GS/Adm-04).....	14
Wednesday, 29 May 2024.....	17
First Plenary Session.....	17
Animal Health Situation Worldwide (91 GS/Tech-01)	17
Activities of the Working Groups.....	19
<i>Working Group on Wildlife (91 GS/Tech-02)</i>	19
<i>Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (91 GS/Tech-03)</i>	21

Second Plenary Session	22
Activities of the Specialist Commissions	22
<i>Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (91 GS/Tech-04)</i>	22
<i>Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (91GS/Tech-05)</i>	36
<i>Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (91GS/Tech-06)</i>	37
Thursday, 30 May 2024.....	51
Third Plenary Session	51
Activities of the Specialist Commissions (cont.).....	51
<i>Biological Standards Commission (91 GS/Tech-07)</i>	51
Adoption of Resolutions drafted during plenary sessions	57
Results of technical resolutions adopted electronically	57
Distribution of animal health status certificates	58
Second Administrative Session	58
Director General's Report on 2023 WOAHA Activities in light of the Seventh Strategic Plan (91 GS/Adm-05 and Adm-06).....	58
Presentation and Adoption of administrative resolutions	61
Activities of the Council (91 GS/Adm-12).....	61
2023 Financial Report (91 GS/Fin-01)	62
Auditors of the Council Report (91 GS/Fin-02)	62
External Auditor Report (91 GS/Fin-03).....	62
Adjustments to the 2024 Budgeted Work Programme (91 GS/Fin-04)	63
2025 Budgeted Work Programme, Income Estimates and Related Contribution Scale (91 GS/Fin-05)	63
Memorandums of Understanding (91 GS/Adm-07, Adm-08, Adm-09, Adm-10 and Adm-11).....	64
Fourth Plenary Session.....	65
Adoption of Resolutions drafted during plenary sessions (cont.)	65
Dates of the 92nd General Session	66
Closing Session	66

Resolutions adopted 68

No. 1: Approval of the Director General's Report on 2023 WOAHA Activities.....	71
No. 2: Approval of the Director General's Report on 2023 WOAHA Management, Activities and Administrative Work.....	72
No. 3: Memorandum of Understanding between WOAHA and the African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR).....	73
No. 4: Memorandum of Understanding between WOAHA and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC).....	74
No. 5: Memorandum of Understanding between WOAHA and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).....	75
No. 6: Memorandum of Understanding between WOAHA and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).....	76
No. 7: Memorandum of Understanding between WOAHA and the Pacific Community (SPC).....	77
No. 8: Appointment of the Director General.....	78
No. 9: Appointment of the Council.....	79
No. 10: Appointment of the Bureaus of the Regional Commissions.....	80
No. 11: Appointment of the Specialist Commissions.....	81
No. 12: Revision of the WOAHA Basic Texts.....	84
No. 13: Acknowledgements to the Members and Partners that made Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies to WOAHA, or contributed to the Organisation of WOAHA Meetings and the Provision of Personnel.....	85
No. 14: Approval of the 2023 Financial Report (1 January – 31 December 2023).....	86
No. 15: Modification of the 2024 Regular Budget.....	87
No. 16: WOAHA Planned Work Programme and Regular Budget Incomes and Expenses for 2025.....	89
No. 17: Financial contributions from WOAHA Members for 2025.....	91
No. 18: Renewal of the Appointment of the External Auditor.....	92
No. 19: Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members.....	93
No. 20: Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Foot and Mouth Disease of Members.....	98
No. 21: Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Members.....	99
No. 22: Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia of Members.....	101
No. 23: Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Members.....	102
No. 24: Recognition of the African Horse Sickness Status of Members.....	104
No. 25: Recognition of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Status of Members.....	106
No. 26: Recognition of the Classical Swine Fever Status of Members.....	108
No. 27: Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for dog-mediated rabies of Members.....	110
No. 28: Amendments to the WOAHA <i>Aquatic Animal Health Code</i>	111

No. 29: Amendments to the WOAH <i>Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals</i>	112
No. 30: Amendments to the WOAH <i>Terrestrial Animal Health Code</i>	114
No. 31: Amendments to the WOAH <i>Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals</i>	118
No. 32: Designation of WOAH Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animal diseases	120
No. 33: Designation of WOAH Collaborating Centres.....	122
No. 34: Register of terrestrial animal disease diagnostic kits validated and certified by WOAH	124
No. 35: WOAH List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance	127
Reports of the Meetings of the Regional Commissions held during the 91st General Session.....	128
Report of the Meeting of the Regional Commission for Africa	129
Report of the Meeting of the Regional Commission for the Americas.....	139
Report of the Meeting of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific	148
Report of the Meeting of the Regional Commission for Europe	157
Report of the Meeting of the Regional Commission for the Middle East.....	167

Introduction

1. The 91st General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates¹ of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) was held from 26 to 30 May 2024 at the Maison de la Chimie, in Paris (France), and was chaired by Dr Hugo Federico Idoyaga Benítez (Paraguay), President of the Assembly.
2. 152 Members participated in the General Session in person.
3. Observers from 4 non-member countries or territories and representatives of 30 international and regional organisations having an agreement with WOAH also attended the General Session in person.
4. The Director General of WOAH, Dr Monique Eloit, participated in the sessions in a consultative capacity and served as Secretary General.
5. The Presidents of the four WOAH Specialist Commissions and the Chairs of the Working Groups for Wildlife and for Antimicrobial Resistance and representatives of some ad hoc Groups also participated in the Plenary Sessions.
6. Dr Romano Marabelli and Dr Amadou Samba Sidibé, Honorary Presidents of WOAH and Dr Bernard Vallat, Honorary Director General of WOAH, participated in the General Session.
7. 20 Guests of Honour (Ministers, Members of Government and senior representatives of multilateral institutions) also participated in the Opening Ceremony.

General Session Preparatory Activities

8. The Council was regularly consulted and informed of the progress of the preparations for the General Session, a notable instance being during its meeting in March 2024.
9. To maximise the time allocated for the General Session, “Pre-General Session Information Webinars” were held in April 2024 and the Regional Commissions’ meetings were also held online during the week prior to the General Session.

¹ Hereafter “the Assembly”

Opening Session

10. Dr Gillian Mylrea, Head of the WOAAH Standards Department, served as Master of Ceremonies for the Opening Ceremony. She extended a warm welcome to all participants and expressed gratitude to the following persons for honouring WOAAH with their presence at the ceremony and representing, among others, the founding Members of the Organisation from the five regions: Mr Fernando Vilella (Bioeconomy Secretary, Argentina), Mr Carlos Bernardo Cherniak (Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Argentina to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations [FAO]), Mr Wael bin Nasser Al-Mubarak (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, Bahrain), Mr Esteban Valenzuela Van Treek (Minister of Agriculture, Chile), Mr Marc Fesneau (Minister of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty, France), Mr Orazio Schillaci (Minister of Health, Italy), Ms Marissa Montepeque (Vice Minister, Animal Agricultural Health and Regulations, Guatemala), Mr Seydou Cissé (Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to the World Food Programme and FAO), Mr Hedeit Ould Chein (Minister of Livestock, Mauritania), Mr Francisco Javier Calderón Elizalde (Chief Director, National Service For Agrifood Health, Safety And Quality, Mexico), Mr Ricardo José Somarriba Reyes (Executive Director, Institute of Agricultural Protection And Health, Nicaragua), Mr Abdullah Bin Hamad Bin Abdullah Al-Attiya (Minister of Municipality, Qatar), Mr Mahinda Amaraweera (Minister of Agriculture And Plantation Industries, Sri Lanka), Mr Hassan Hussein Mohamed (Minister of Livestock, Forestry And Range, Somalia), Mr Mubarak Ali Al Qusaili Al Mansoori (Executive Director of the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority, United Arab Emirates), Ms Jennifer Moffit (Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, United States Department of Agriculture, United States of America), Mr Fernando Mattos (Minister of Livestock, Agriculture And Fisheries, Uruguay), Mr Bakhrom Norkobilov (Chairman, Committee of Veterinary and Livestock Development, Uzbekistan), Mr Thanawat Tiensin (Director, Animal Production and Health Division and Chief Veterinarian, FAO), Ms Huyam Ahmed Mohammed Elamin Salih (Director of the African Union -Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources).
11. Dr Mylrea also thanked those persons who had sent a video recorded message in advance: Mr Murray Watt (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Australia), Mr David Clarinval (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for the Self-Employed, Small and Medium Enterprises, Agriculture, Institutional Reforms and Democratic Renewal, Belgium), Mr Tetsushi Sakamoto (Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan), Ms Miryung Song (Minister of Agriculture, Republic of Korea), Mr Thammanat Prompao (Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand), Mr Qu Dongyu (Director-General of FAO), Mr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (Director General of the World Health Organization) and, Ms Inger Andersen (Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme). Dr Mylrea invited WOAAH's Director General, Dr Monique Eloit, to deliver her opening remarks.
12. The Director General welcomed the numerous attendees to the 91st General Session, underscoring its importance as it marked the 100th anniversary of the Organisation's founding as the *Office International des Epizooties* (OIE).
13. She recalled the events of May 1921, when approximately forty countries responded to France's invitation to participate in a conference to discuss the consequences of the global spread of rinderpest. She noted that the conference participants aimed to agree on "common action in the sanitary policing of contagious animal diseases, as each country must concern itself not only with the health situation of its immediate neighbours but with that of the entire world." The Director General reminded the Assembly that the conference had concluded on the necessity of creating a permanent International Bureau of Epizootics, leading to the official establishment of the *Office International des Epizooties* on 25 January 1924, through the signing of the international agreement by 28 founding countries.
14. She informed the Assembly that from the initial 28 pioneering countries, WOAAH had expanded over the past 100 years to encompass 183 Members, all united by the ambition to act collectively. She highlighted the growth of an extensive network of laboratories, reference centres and numerous institutional and professional partners, collaborating with WOAAH to support its mission.

15. Since its establishment in 1924, she highlighted that the Organisation had undergone a substantial transformation and achieved numerous successes, with the collaboration of national Veterinary Services worldwide and various partners. She declared that the Assembly could rightfully celebrate these achievements. She prompted the Assembly to contemplate whether the 28 founding Members could have envisaged the Organisation's current membership size, the eradication of rinderpest, and the sustained collective determination to tackle ambitious challenges, such as controlling transboundary diseases, monitoring emerging diseases, combating antibiotic resistance, promoting animal welfare and adhering to the One Health approach.
16. Considering the broadened scope of activities and the growing complexity of the environment, the Director General stressed that commemorating WOAAH's centenary should initiate a thorough contemplation of its future, to be addressed at the upcoming forum. She highlighted the significance of this occasion as a pivotal opportunity to deliberate on the roles WOAAH and the Veterinary Services must assume in the evolving landscape of global health governance and to develop strategies to meet these expectations effectively.
17. She underscored the importance of unity among Members and partners in shaping the future, stressing the need for a shared vision or ideal akin to that envisioned by the founders of WOAAH a century ago. She urged the Assembly to remember that future generations anticipate both action and inspiration to instil confidence in the future.
18. She emphasised that the centenary presented the Organisation with a valuable opportunity to thank its Members, stakeholders, partners, collaborators and colleagues for their invaluable support. She expressed optimism that the 100th anniversary would generate the necessary momentum to sustain the progress achieved thus far, while also casting an eye to the future and those entrusted with upholding the legacy.
19. She concluded by extending an invitation to the Assembly to watch a short film narrating the history and value of the Organisation, showcasing its significant contribution to improving animal health and welfare worldwide, through the eyes of its stakeholders.
20. Following the video, the Master of Ceremonies invited the WOAAH President, Dr Idoyaga Benítez, to deliver his opening remarks.
21. Dr Idoyaga Benítez welcomed the participants and expressed the honour he felt in addressing them on this significant occasion. He recalled the special significance of this Assembly, as the Organisation commemorated its centenary, marking a century of dedicated efforts towards improving the health and welfare of animals globally. The President noted that the 91st General Session provides an opportunity to reflect on the Organisation's achievements and to chart a course towards building a healthier and more sustainable future for humanity.
22. Reflecting on history, he recalled that in 1924, a visionary group had gathered in Paris with the noble goal of establishing an international organisation to combat transboundary animal diseases, particularly rinderpest. This visionary endeavour culminated in the creation of the *Office International des Epizooties* (OIE), which has since become the global authority in animal health and the trade of animals and animal products worldwide.
23. The President emphasised that the OIE, now known as WOAAH, had been influential in strengthening global goods. Throughout its history, the Organisation had made significant strides to enhance animal health worldwide, saving countless animal and human lives. He pointed out that it had contributed to the health and welfare of people globally by developing international standards and guidelines, as well as providing technical and scientific support to its Members.
24. Dr Idoyaga Benítez noted that, as a founding member of the Quadripartite, WOAAH was continuing its close collaboration with other international organisations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), to address threats to animal and public health originating from animals.

25. Looking towards the future, the President acknowledged that WOAAH and its Members faced unprecedented challenges, including globalisation, climate change, emerging diseases and their impact on global food security, and agroterrorism.
26. Reflecting on the Organisation's centenary, he thanked those who had contributed to its success, highlighting the commitment and dedication of its Members, its technical and scientific collaborators, and WOAAH staff. He stated that collectively they had played a fundamental role in achieving the Organisation's objectives and establishing its global standing.
27. The President also underscored the significance of the current General Session, which would see the election of a new Director General to lead the Organisation for the coming five years.
28. On behalf of all Members, the President expressed sincere gratitude to the Director General, Dr Monique Eloit, for her hard work and fruitful leadership of the Organisation, wishing her health and success in her future endeavours.
29. Dr Idoyaga Benítez announced the conclusion of his term as President of the Council of Delegates. He stated that it had been an immense honour to preside over the Council for the past three years, offering him the opportunity to witness first-hand the tireless work and commitment of the Organisation to improve animal health and public health worldwide. He thanked his fellow Council Members for their support and extended his best wishes to his successor and the new Council.
30. He expressed pride in the achievements made by the Organisation in the past 100 years and shared his conviction that WOAAH would continue to thrive in the future, maintaining its leading role in global animal health. He emphasised the commitment of the Organisation to supporting its Members in building a healthier and more sustainable future for all.
31. The President concluded his intervention with a call to action, for all Members, international organisations and society to work together for a healthier and more sustainable future for all, for both animals and people.
32. Following the President's address, the Master of Ceremonies invited the following guests of honour to give their speeches: Mr Fesneau, Mr Clarinval, Mr Watt, Mr Al-Mubarak, Ms Song, Mr Schillaci, Mr Sakamoto, Mr Al-Attiya, Mr Amaraweera, Mr Prompao, Mr Mattos, Mr Vilella, Mr Calderón Elizalde, Ms Moffit, Mr Qu, Mr Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and Ms Andersen.

Announcement of the winners of the WOAAH Photo Competition

33. Dr Mylrea introduced the WOAAH Photo Competition to the Assembly and announced the 2024 winners supported by video commentaries from the evaluation panel:
 - Global Prize for the WOAAH network: Jorge Bacelar (Portugal)
 - Global Prize for Veterinary Students: Famela Supama (Indonesia)
 - Africa Regional Prize: Daniel Waturu (Kenya)
 - Americas Regional Prize: Juan Letelier (Chile)
 - Asia and Pacific Regional Prize: Raffi Akbar (Indonesia)
 - Europe Regional Prize: Ján Kmet' (Slovakia)
 - Middle East Regional Prize: Fatemeh Jalal (Iran)
 - Public Choice Prize: Yadamsuran Davgadorj (Mongolia)

Presentation of the WOAAH Honorary Awards

34. Dr Gillian Mylrea reminded participants that, in accordance with the Basic Texts of WOAAH, honorary awards could be bestowed upon members of the veterinary community for outstanding services to veterinary science and to WOAAH. She then invited Dr Idoyaga Benítez to introduce the recipients of the honorary awards.
35. Dr Idoyaga Benítez announced that the individuals selected by the Council in 2024 to receive the awards were: Dr Mark Schipp (Australia) for the Gold Medal, while the Meritorious Award was conferred upon Drs Malek Zrelli (Tunisia), Edmund Peeler (United Kingdom) and Mia Kim Torchetti (United States of America).
36. Dr Idoyaga Benítez commended the awardees and recalled their major accomplishments and outstanding services to WOAAH and the veterinary world. He presented them or their representatives with their medals. The recipients thanked the President and the Assembly.
37. Following the ceremony, the 91st General Session of the World Assembly of WOAAH Delegates was declared open.

Monday, 27 May 2024

Meetings of the Regional Commissions ([91 GS/Adm-03](#))

38. The meetings of the WOAAH Regional Commissions took place at Maison de la Chimie (Paris) on Monday 27 May 2024. The participants comprised the members of each Regional Commission, representatives of international and regional organisations and members of staff of WOAAH regional offices and the Headquarters. Agendas included several topics of regional interest such as the outcomes of Regional Conferences, the selection of technical items, and updates on key regional activities. A closed session was reserved in each meeting for Delegates to discuss the candidates to be proposed for the elections on Tuesday 28 May 2024.

Forum: Is WOAAH ready for the future? ([91 GS/Adm-13](#))

39. Dr Monique Eloit, WOAAH Director General, introduced the Forum 'Is WOAAH Ready for the Future?' This Forum arose from the work of two projects in 2023: WOAAH's 100th Anniversary Participatory Foresight Project and an external review of its Basic Texts. The objectives of the Forum were: 1. to foster a participatory environment in a culturally diverse and intergenerational setting and 2. to create a space for reflection to assist WOAAH and its Members to agree that the Basic Texts and current governance structures should be revised for agility, resilience and future-readiness.
40. The Forum took place over three sessions, with panel discussions in sessions 1 and 3 with members of WOAAH's Council and representatives from the International Veterinary Students Association and with interactive breakout rooms for Session 2 with General Session participants.
41. The Forum served as a platform for stakeholders to examine the evolving landscape of animal health and welfare, with a particular focus on WOAAH's role and readiness for the future. Since its inception in response to the catastrophic rinderpest outbreak in 1924, WOAAH has grown from a modest coalition of 28 Members to a global entity comprising 183 Members. Over the decades, WOAAH has expanded its scope beyond livestock to address emerging challenges such as wildlife health, antimicrobial resistance and animal welfare. However, as the Organisation confronts new influences, such as changing climates and technological advancements, questions arise about its adaptability and preparedness for the challenges ahead.

42. The Forum highlighted the imperative for WOAAH to evolve alongside the dynamic environment it serves, emphasising the need for resilience and adaptability in governance mechanisms. By reflecting on past achievements, current challenges and anticipated changes, participants aimed to ensure that WOAAH remains agile and responsive to emerging threats and opportunities in animal health and welfare.
43. Dr Susana Pombo, Vice President of the Council and Delegate of Portugal, closed the Forum and indicated that a report on key insights for each of the sessions along with the scenarios used at the Forum and the long-form format of the scenarios created during the 100th Anniversary Participatory Foresight Project would be made available on the WOAAH website.
44. As the Forum concluded, it left a clear mandate for WOAAH to embrace change and proactively revise its foundational documents to align with future needs. By fostering a participatory environment and encouraging diverse perspectives, the Forum underscored the importance of collaborative efforts in shaping WOAAH's future trajectory. Moving forward, WOAAH must continue to engage with stakeholders, anticipate future challenges and adapt its governance structures to ensure that it remains at the forefront of global efforts to safeguard animal health and welfare.
45. Dr Pombo then referred to draft Resolution No. 12 Revision of the WOAAH Basic Texts, underlining that the Resolution had been drafted, and agreed to, by the Council during its meeting in March 2024. She concluded by inviting the Assembly to adopt the Resolution during the Second Administrative Session on 30 May 2024.

Tuesday, 28 May 2024

First Administrative Session

Adoption of the Provisional Programme of the General Session ([91 GS/Adm-01](#))

46. The President asked whether the Members had any comments on the provisional programme. In the absence of comments, the Assembly adopted the programme for the General Session.

Nomination of the Sub-Commission for the Agenda of the 91st General Session

47. The Assembly appointed the Sub-Commission for the agenda for the 91st General Session, namely Dr Batawui Komla Batassé (Delegate of Togo) and Dr Fajer Al Salloom (Delegate of Bahrain), Members of the Council.

Nomination of the Credentials Committee

48. The Assembly appointed Dr Him Hoo Yap (Delegate of Singapore) and Dr Wilmer José Juárez Juárez (Delegate of Nicaragua), Members of the Council, to validate the list of Delegates accredited by their governments to participate in the debates and to vote during the elections, based on the countries that were up to date with their contributions.
49. In accordance with the decisions of the Council, the Credentials Committee communicated to the President, the list of Delegates who, due to being in arrears of statutory contributions to WOAAH, were ineligible to take part in the elections as well as ineligible to receive the Delegates' per diem for their participation in the current General Session.

Activities of the WOA Regional Commissions ([91 GS/Adm-02](#) and [Adm-03](#))

50. The President reminded participants that the reports of the meetings of the Regional Commissions held in two sessions, a virtual session on 14 May 2024 (Asia and the Pacific), 15 May 2024 (the Americas and the Middle East), 16 May 2024 (Europe) and 21 May 2024 (Africa), and another session conducted in person simultaneously for each of the WOA Regional Commissions on Monday 27 May 2024 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. CEST², had been made available on the General Session website on Monday 27 May ([91 GS/Adm-03](#)).
51. The President also reminded participants that the recommendations of the Conferences of the Regional Commissions that had been conducted in person since June 2023, namely 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, had been made available on the General Session website a few weeks before the General Session ([91 GS/Adm-02](#)).
52. The President then asked if there were any comments.
53. There were no comments from the participants. The President confirmed that the Assembly had noted the reports of the meetings of the Regional Commissions and had also endorsed the recommendations of the 17th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East and the 33rd Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific.
54. The Regional Activities Highlights presentations originally scheduled to take place on Tuesday 28 May could not be made because of time constraints.

Elections Process

55. The President explained that, at the request of the Council, the election of the Director General was being organised through secret paper ballots as it was deemed the most suitable process for this position, but that the remainder of the elections were being organised through a secure electronic voting system. All elections would be overseen by an independent legal expert, Mr Nicola Bonucci, the former Director for Legal Affairs of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Two scrutineers, Members of the Council, Dr Juárez Juárez (Delegate of Nicaragua) and Dr Yap (Delegate of Singapore) were appointed as election scrutineers. Moreover, two *ad hoc* observers for the election of the Director General, Dr Susana Guedes Pombo (Delegate of Portugal, Vice President of the Council) and Dr Roland Xolani Dlamini (Delegate of Eswatini, Member of the Council), were appointed.

Election of the Director General

56. As an opening remark, the President recalled that in September 2023, Dr Eloit had announced her decision to step down from her position as Director General, and that proposals for candidacy were called shortly after in early October. The President confirmed that applications for the position of Director General were welcome from any Member of the Organisation. The President informed the Assembly that the candidatures for the position of Director General were examined, and the candidates were interviewed by the Council in March 2024. There were two candidates, namely:
 - Dr Luis Barcos (Argentina)
 - Dr Emmanuelle Soubeyran (France)
57. The Credentials Committee reported that 151 Members were participating at the 91st General Session and 139 were eligible to participate in the vote and the deliberations of the Assembly.

2 CEST: Central European Summer Time.

58. Mr Rodney de Souza, Head of the Legal Affairs Unit, endorsed by the independent legal expert, Mr Bonucci, explained the election process; i.e. election by secret ballot, in the sole presence of official and accredited Delegates or their alternates, with three rounds if necessary. To be elected, a candidate had to receive at least two-thirds of the votes cast in the first round, an absolute majority in the second round or a relative majority in the third round. Mr Bonucci confirmed that the voting procedure was fair, open and transparent.
59. The President of the Assembly checked the number of participants and indicated that the quorum was reached and that the vote could take place.
60. Dr Barcos and Dr Soubeyran were each accorded 10 minutes to present their respective intents to the Assembly.
61. The candidates were invited to leave the voting room. The ballot was then declared open.
62. At the end of the first round of voting, the two-thirds majority requirement was not met; therefore, the President announced the second round of voting using the same process.
63. At the end of the second round of voting, the President declared that Dr Emmanuelle Soubeyran had received the required majority of the votes cast by an absolute majority and was elected as Director General of WOAAH for a period of five years. The President then invited the candidates to return to the meeting to inform them of the result of the voting. He congratulated Dr Soubeyran on her election.
64. Dr Soubeyran thanked the Delegates for placing their trust in her to lead WOAAH for a five-year term.

Election of the President of the Assembly

65. In accordance with the General Rules, the President checked the number of participants. As the number of participants connected to the electronic voting platform exceeded the quorum of 93 present, the votes could take place.
66. The President asked the Assembly to present the candidatures for this election. The Assembly voted on the candidature of Dr Susana Guedes Pombo (Portugal).

After the voting took place, the President declared that Dr Guedes Pombo had been elected as President of the Assembly.

Election of the Vice-President of the Assembly

67. In accordance with the General Rules, the President checked the number of participants. As the number of participants connected to the electronic voting platform exceeded the quorum of 93 present, the votes could take place.
68. The candidate was as follows:

– Dr Fajer Al Salloom (Bahrain), supported by Saudi Arabia and Oman.

After the voting took place, the President declared that Dr Fajer Al Salloom had been elected as Vice-President of the Assembly.

Election of the Members of the Council

69. In accordance with the General Rules, the President checked the number of participants. As the number of participants connected to the electronic voting platform exceeded the quorum of 93 present, the votes could take place.
70. Following consultations during the meetings of the Regional Commissions, the President asked the Assembly to present their candidates for this election.
71. The following were elected as Members of the Council:
- For the Africa Region, supported by Mali and Portugal:

Dr Roland Xolani Dlamini (Eswatini)
Dr Mbargou Lo (Senegal)
 - For the Americas Region, supported by Uruguay and Honduras:

Dr Wilmer José Juárez Juárez (Nicaragua)
 - For the Asia and the Pacific Region, supported by Australia and Denmark:

Dr Mary van Andel (New Zealand)
Dr Masatsugu Okita (Japan)
 - For the Europe Region, while only one position needed to be filled, two candidates were proposed, Dr Christine Middlemiss (United Kingdom) and Dr Konstantin Savenko (Russia). They were supported by Norway and Sweden, and by Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, respectively:

After the voting took place, the President declared that Dr Middlemiss had been elected as a member of the Council for the Europe Region.

Election of the Bureaus of Regional Commissions

72. In accordance with the General Rules, the President checked the number of participants. As the number of participants connected to the electronic voting platform exceeded the quorum of 93 present, the votes could take place.
73. As a result of these elections, the Assembly noted the new composition of each Regional Commission, as follows:

Regional Commission for Africa, supported by Kenya and Tunisia:

President:	Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela (Congo [Dem. Rep. of the])
Vice-President:	Dr Anna Rose Ademun Okurut (Uganda)
Vice-President:	Dr Abderrahman El Abrak (Morocco)
Secretary General:	Dr Columba Teru Vakuru (Nigeria)

Regional Commission for the Americas, supported by Sweden and Senegal:

President:	Dr Rosemary Sifford (United States of America)
Vice-President:	Dr Rafael Rodríguez Alvarado (Honduras)
Vice-President:	Dr Carlos Orellana Vaquero (Chile)
Secretary General:	Dr Roxana Alvarez (Belize)

Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific, supported by United Arab Emirates and Croatia:

President: Dr Baoxu Huang (China [People's Rep. of])
Vice-President: Dr K. A. C. H. A. Kothalawala (Sri Lanka)
Vice-President: Dr Akma binti Nhah Hamid (Malaysia)
Secretary General: Dr Beth Cookson (Australia)

Regional Commission for Europe, supported by Italy and The Netherlands:

President: Dr Maris Balodis (Latvia)
Vice-President: Dr Ulrich Herzog (Austria)
Vice-President: Dr Vasili Basiladze (Georgia),
Secretary General: Dr Nikolche Babovski (North Macedonia)

Regional Commission for the Middle East, supported by New Zealand and Bahrain:

President: Dr Sanad Alharbi (Saudi Arabia)
Vice-President: Dr Christodoulos Pipis (Cyprus)
Vice-President: Dr Samah Al Sharif (Oman)
Secretary General: Dr Elias Ibrahim (Lebanon)

Election of the Members of the Specialist Commissions ([91 GS/Adm-04](#))

74. In accordance with the General Rules, the President checked the number of participants. As the number of participants connected to the electronic voting platform exceeded the quorum of 93 present, the votes could take place.
75. The President stated that a list of candidates drawn up by the WOAHA Council following the evaluation of candidates by the Nomination Evaluation Committee had been shared with the Delegates 60 days before the General Session. He reminded the Assembly that each Regional Commission had had the opportunity to examine these lists and express its preferences. He proposed that voting take place for each of the Specialist Commissions, position by position, starting individually with the President and the two Vice-Presidents, and then the three members together. It was pointed out that there was no hierarchy between the two Vice-Presidents.

Colombia, speaking on behalf of the 33 Members of the WOAHA Americas Region, raised concerns about the transparency of the process to select the candidates according to their skillsets including their English language capabilities. He stated that language barriers could be overcome through easy-to-use, accessible technologies and tools; in this way the Organisation could benefit from the expertise it was seeking, despite language barriers. In light of this, he mentioned that the process to validate people was not clear and asked that the process be clarified.

Belgium, Colombia and Bolivia raised concerns about the technology used to elect candidates, considering the multiple technology issues encountered during the process.

76. For each Specialist Commission, the results of the elections were as follows.

Election of the Members of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

77. President

The candidate Dr Etienne Bonbon (France) was supported by Switzerland.

After the voting took place, the President declared that Dr Bonbon had been elected as President.

Vice-President

The candidates were as follows:

Dr Gastón Funes (Argentina), supported by Bolivia

Dr Kiyokazu Murai (Japan), supported by New Zealand and Oman

After the voting took place, the President declared that Dr Murai had been elected as Vice-President.

Vice-President

The candidate was as follows:

Dr Gastón Funes (Argentina)

After the voting took place, the President declared that Dr Funes had been elected as Vice-President.

Members (3)

Belgium proposed to add Dr Caroline Dubé (Canada) as a candidate on the list and Georgia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Cyprus seconded the nomination.

The final list of candidates, supported by Peru and other Members, was as follows:

Prof. Salah Hammami (Tunisia)

Dr Bernardo Todeschini (Brazil)

Dr Caroline Dubé (Canada)

Dr John Stratton (Australia)

Dr Luis José Romero Gonzalez (Spain)

After voting had taken place, the President declared that Prof. Hammami, Dr Dubé and Dr Stratton had been elected as Members of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission.

Election of the Members of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

78. President

The candidate Dr Alicia Gallardo (Chile) was supported by Canada, Argentina and Uruguay.

After the voting took place, the President declared that Dr Gallardo had been elected as President.

Vice-President

The candidates were as follows:

Ms Fiona Geoghegan (Ireland), supported by Poland

Dr Ingo Ernst (Australia), supported by Ireland

After the voting took place, the President declared that Ms Geoghegan had been elected as Vice-President.

Vice-President

The candidate Dr Ingo Ernst (Australia) was supported by Japan and Bahrain.

After the voting took place, the President declared that Dr Ingo Ernst had been elected as Vice-President.

Members (3)

The candidates supported by Chile and Georgia were as follows:

Dr Kevin Christison (South Africa)
Prof. Hong Liu (China [People's Rep. of])
Dr Bernita Giffin (Canada)
Dr Saraya Tavoranpanich (Norway)

After the voting took place, the President declared that Dr Christison, Prof. Liu and Dr Tavoranpanich had been elected as Members of the Aquatic Animals Health Standards Commission.

Election of the Members of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

79. President

The only candidature was that of Dr Cristobal Zepeda (United States of America), supported by Haiti and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

After the voting took place, the President declared that Dr Zepeda had been elected as President.

Vice-President

The candidates were as follows:

Dr Silvia Bellini (Italy), supported by Latvia
Prof. Naomi Cogger (New Zealand), supported by Bahrain

After the voting took place, the President declared that Dr Bellini had been elected as Vice-President.

Vice-President

The candidate was as follows:

Prof. Naomi Cogger (New Zealand), supported by Armenia

After the voting took place, the President declared that Prof. Cogger had been elected as Vice-President.

Members (3)

The candidates, supported by Senegal and Slovakia, were as follows:

Prof. Baptise Kimbenga Dungu (South Africa and Congo [Demo. Rep. of])
Dr Mischeck Mulumba (Zambia)
Dr Ariel Pereda (Argentina)
Prof. Jan Arend Stegeman (The Netherlands)

Argentina took the floor to declare that Dr Ariel Pereda had been withdrawn as a candidate.

After the voting by show of hands took place without Dr Pereda on the list, the President declared that Prof. Dungu, Dr Mulumba and Dr Stegeman had been elected as Members of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases.

Election of the Members of the Biological Standards Commission

80. President

The candidate Prof. Emmanuel Couacy-Hymann (Côte-d'Ivoire) was supported by Central African Republic and Kuwait.

After the voting took place, the President declared that Prof. Couacy-Hymann had been elected as President.

Vice-President

The candidates were as follows:

Prof. Ann Cullinane (Ireland), supported by Suriname

Prof. Chris Oura (Trinidad and Tobago), supported by New Zealand

After the voting took place, the President declared that Prof. Cullinane had been elected as Vice-President.

Vice-President

The candidate Prof. Chris Oura (Trinidad and Tobago) was supported by St Vincent and the Grenadines.

After the voting took place, the President declared that Prof. Oura had been elected as Vice-President.

Members (3)

The candidates, supported by Korea (Dem. People's Rep. of) and Slovakia, were as follows:

Dr Satako Kawaji (Japan)

Dr Joseph O'Keefe (New Zealand)

Dr Aruna Ambagala (Canada)

Dr Donald King (United Kingdom)

After the voting took place, the President declared that Dr Kawaji, Dr O'Keefe and Dr King had been elected as Members of the Biological Standards Commission.

81. The President noted the significant technological issues encountered during the use of the online voting platform and urged the newly elected Director General to ensure that such an unfortunate situation does not occur again.

Wednesday, 29 May 2024

First Plenary Session

Animal Health Situation Worldwide ([91 GS/Tech-01](#))

82. Dr Idoyaga Benítez introduced Dr Jenny Hutchison, Head of the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department (WAHIAD), and Dr Laure Weber-Vintzel, Head of the Data Integration Department (DID).

83. The “Animal Health Situation Worldwide”, summarised by Dr Hutchison and Dr Weber-Vintzel, focused on two areas. The first section provided an update on the state of play of the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) modernisation and of reporting by Members. The second section highlighted the importance of the data integration approach used to provide updates on four key topics. These topics included infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI), African swine fever (ASF) virus, foot and mouth disease (FMD) virus, and vector-borne diseases. Dr Hutchison and Dr Weber-Vintzel thanked Delegates and Focal Points for their efforts in data sharing, as well as experts and partners of WOAAH for their instrumental contribution to risk management. They underlined the importance of timely and integrated information of good quality.
84. Dr Idoyaga Benítez indicated that due to time constraints, the discussion would not be open. However, he invited participants to approach the speakers during the event, via the WAHIS kiosk. He closed the session.
85. Comments were received from the 27 Member States of the EU³ who shared written feedback outlining their concerns about regional disparities in terms of surveillance and notification to WOAAH and invited all WOAAH Members to continue efforts to increase transparency in the disease situation. The EU Members expressed their concern related to the spread of FMD and peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and called on WOAAH, FAO and all WOAAH Members to step up their efforts in the ongoing Global FMD and PPR Eradication Programmes under the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary of Animal Diseases (GF-TADs). With regard to HPAI, EU Members stressed the importance of surveillance, including the genetic characterisation of viruses, and the transparent sharing of results in order to detect in good time any viral shifts that could pose a risk to public health and to keep vaccines up to date. The EU Members also shared their positive experience of HPAI vaccination, highlighting its effectiveness and safety when combined with appropriate surveillance and risk mitigation measures and referred to the assessment carried out by the European Food Safety Authority. With regard to ASF, the EU Members stressed the importance of using only high-quality vaccines and clarified that in the absence of effective and safe vaccines, no ASF vaccine was authorised in the EU for the time being. The EU Members recalled that ASF was an animal disease that the EU considered should be eradicated immediately and they encouraged the rapid application of strict measures. The EU Members thanked WOAAH for supporting the linking of the EU’s Animal Disease Information System (ADIS) with WAHIS and the six pilot Member States supporting the final stages of this important project, which would enable one-portal reporting for EU Members in the near future.
86. Dr Hutchison thanked the 27 Member States of the EU for their comments.
87. Australia commented on the recent detections of HPAI in the country. The Delegate explained that these detections of H7N3 and H7N9 subtypes were closely related to low pathogenic strains of the Australasian lineage known to circulate in wild birds, as indicated in the immediate notifications submitted to WOAAH. She clarified that this was not part of the global spread of HPAI H5 and that Australia remained free of HPAI H5.
88. Dr Weber-Vintzel thanked the Delegate of Australia for providing further clarification of elements set out in the presentation. She added that OFFLU (FAO-WOAAH network of expertise on animal influenza) experts had also warned of the risk of H5 viruses spreading to Oceania and Members should remain vigilant in the face of this risk.

3 EU: European Union.

Activities of the Working Groups

Working Group on Wildlife ([91 GS/Tech-02](#))

89. Dr William Karesh, Chair of the Working Group on Wildlife, presented an overview of the activities of the Working Group since the previous General Session and the outcomes of its meetings held from 20 to 23 June 2023 and from 28 November to 1 December 2023.
90. Dr Karesh stated that the Working Group had discussed the outcomes of WOA's collaboration with international partners and identified priorities for further engagement. He mentioned that key partners included the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). He noted that there were also opportunities to reinforce other partnerships in the near future, including with the Wildlife Disease Association (WDA), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). He explained that the WDA offered an extensive network of wildlife professionals, which could support WOA's Members. Dr Karesh highlighted several productive activities, including work with CITES to expedite rapid shipment of diagnostic samples; the development of guidance, with IUCN, on wildlife disease surveillance for field workers; and the establishment of the Nature for Health (N4H) project, with UNEP and partners, in Mongolia.
91. Dr Karesh indicated that the Working Group had continued its fruitful collaboration with the Code Commission. Together with the Code Commission, the Working Group had identified specific chapters in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* that were due to be updated and required input from wildlife experts, either because the epidemiology of a disease involved wildlife, or because the chapter presented opportunities to integrate aspects relating to the improvement of wildlife health.
92. Throughout the year the Working Group had worked closely with WOA's Headquarters on emerging and priority issues including the El Niño-Southern Oscillation and its potential impacts on animal health, and high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in wildlife. Dr Karesh highlighted the significant impact that HPAI H5N1 was having on wildlife populations, both birds and mammals. The Working Group had developed guidance on emergency vaccination of wild birds against HPAI, and had issued a statement highlighting concerns about HPAI in Antarctica and the subantarctic zone. Significant mortality events had been seen in sea mammals in South America, and WOA had provided guidance for responders on dealing with such events. He highlighted that transmission amongst sea mammals should trigger concerns around viral changes that could increase risk for terrestrial mammals, including humans, and he encouraged Veterinary Services to talk with their public health counterparts. Dr Karesh noted that there were still surveillance gaps around the world for avian influenza in wildlife; challenges included physical factors and the lack of sustainable resources. He emphasised that surveillance accompanied by reporting and monitoring of genetic sequence data remained important for risk assessment and situational awareness.
93. A substantial amount of work had been undertaken to produce WOA's Guidelines for Addressing Disease Risks in Wildlife Trade. These had now been published and Dr Karesh urged Members to promote and use them. He thanked the Government of Australia for having supported this work.
94. Dr Karesh stated that the Working Group was impressed by the extensive scoping work that had been carried out to ensure that the next generation wildlife disease reporting system (which would replace WAHIS-wild) was purposeful.
95. The Working Group welcomed the recent establishment of a formalised network of WOA's Collaborating Centres working on wildlife health.

96. Members of the Working Group had supported WOA's communications by providing advice on important events to guide risk communication, developing talking points for social media and participating in social media 'reels'. Messages on wildlife health had been disseminated through WOA's social media networks to promote a narrative around the positive contribution of wildlife health to animal and human health. Dr Karesh highlighted the fact that wildlife health was one of the most popular topics on WOA's communications platforms, which offered an opportunity for WOA to raise its profile.
97. Dr Karesh stated that the Working Group, in its strategic advisory role, regularly reviewed progress with implementation of the WOA Wildlife Health Framework and advised on its future direction.
98. **Composition of the 2024 Working Group on Wildlife:**
- Dr William B. Karesh (United States of America) (Chair)
 - Dr Marcela Uhart (Argentina)
 - Dr Markus Hofmeyr (South Africa)
 - Prof. Dolores Gaviera-Widén (Sweden) – New Member
 - Dr Rupert Woods (Australia)
 - Dr Mwanza Songe (Zambia) – New Member
 - Dr Jonathan Sleeman (United States of America)
 - Dr Anna Wong (Singapore) – New Member
99. Dr Karesh thanked current and past members of the Working Group for their contributions and welcomed the three new members.
100. The President of WOA congratulated Dr Karesh on his presentation and expressed the hope that the Working Group would continue its work along the same lines. He then opened the floor for discussion.
101. The Delegate of Senegal thanked the President and congratulated Dr Karesh. Senegal sought clarification about the type of avian influenza vaccines used in wild bird populations. Dr Karesh explained that non-infectious vaccines should be used and that recommendations should follow those of the Biological Standards Commission. Vaccination of wild birds was only recommended in specific situations, for example vaccination of a limited number of endangered birds in controlled settings (examples of use included vaccination of Californian Condors in the United States of America and captive wild birds in New Zealand). He mentioned that guidelines were available on the WOA website.
102. The Delegate of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the Quads Alliance (Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and New Zealand), highlighted the importance of the WOA Wildlife Health Framework, congratulating the WOA Team and the Working Group for their important work and the production of guidelines, especially on avian influenza.
103. The Delegate of Gabon congratulated Dr Karesh on the presentation and requested further information about the implications of avian influenza infections in Antarctica. Dr Karesh stated that the full implications were currently unknown. In other parts of the world there had been high mortalities in wildlife species, and that presented a reasonable possibility that tremendous losses could also occur in Antarctica. Dr Karesh highlighted challenges in monitoring the situation in that part of the world and advocated for additional studies along migratory flyways to reduce future risks. He also advocated for risk reduction efforts to avoid people bringing the virus to the Antarctic continent. Dr Karesh encouraged countries in the Antarctic Treaty to share resources and to support each other with diagnostics given the lack of diagnostic facilities in Antarctica.
104. Dr Karesh thanked the Delegates, the President of the Council and the WOA Director General.

Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance ([91 GS/Tech-03](#))

105. Dr Tomoko Ishibashi, Chair of the Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMRWG), presented an overview of the AMRWG's activities since the 90th General Session and the outcomes of its bi-annual meetings, held virtually from 10 to 12 October 2023 and at WOA Headquarters in Paris, from 27 to 29 February 2024.
106. The activities of the AMRWG throughout this period included the following:
- Revision of *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 6.10. 'Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine', following comments provided by Members during multiple rounds of feedback. The Code Commission will be proposing the revised Chapter 6.10. for adoption by Members during the 91st General Session (Resolution No. 30).
 - Revision of the recommendations of the WOA List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance, to ensure alignment with the changes in the categorisation criteria of the WHO List of Medically Important Antimicrobials (previously known as the WHO List of Critically Important Antimicrobials). Phosphonic acid derivatives are now deemed as high priority critically important antimicrobials, authorised for animals and humans, together with colistin, fluoroquinolones and third and fourth generation cephalosporins. The Director General will be proposing the revised recommendations of the WOA List for adoption by Members during the General Session (Resolution No. 35).
 - Development of the species-specific Technical Reference Documents on Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance for Bovine Animals and Cats and Dogs by *ad hoc* groups (chaired by AMRWG members). The Technical Reference Documents are due to be endorsed by the AMRWG by the end of October 2024. Once this work has been completed, the AMRWG will be conducting an extensive revision of the WOA List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance.
107. Members of the 2024 Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance:
- Dr Tomoko Ishibashi (Japan) (Chair)
 - Dr Stephen Page (Australia)
 - Dr Fajer Sabah Al Saloom (Bahrain)
 - Dr Barbara Freischem (The Netherlands)
108. Prof. Moritz van Vuuren (South Africa) and Dr Donald Prater (United States of America) stepped down from the AMRWG in December 2023 and March 2024, respectively. To ensure adequate geographical representation in the AMRWG, three new members were selected through an open recruitment call, and appointed by the Director General:
- Dr Jalusa Deon Kich (Brazil)
 - Dr Carolee Carson (Canada)
 - Dr Arshnee Moodley (Kenya)
109. The presentation was welcomed by the Members and Dr Idoyaga Benítez thanked Dr Ishibashi for the important and comprehensive work conducted by the AMRWG.
110. The former Delegate of Australia acknowledged that WOA's main responsibility was on monitoring antimicrobial use (AMU) and asked what conclusions could be drawn from antimicrobial use about antimicrobial resistance. Dr Ishibashi emphasised that the AMRWG's work was based on the understanding of the relationship between AMU and AMR and noted that whilst WOA focused on the global database for AMU, FAO was developing a global database for AMR, as part of their collaborative efforts. Dr Ishibashi informed Members that once Chapter 6.10 of the *Terrestrial Code* was adopted, the AMRWG would continue to work on further chapters, including those related to surveillance of AMR, where it would be possible to consider resistance and its association with AMU.

111. Benin thanked the AMRWG for its work and inquired how WOAHA was working in collaboration with other groups tackling AMR. Benin also asked how WOAHA managed data collection on AMU for aquatic species, as Veterinary Services often did not have aquatic data.

Dr Ishibashi thanked Benin and informed the Assembly that WOAHA was working closely with FAO, UNEP and WHO, as part of the Quadripartite and that these organisations were invited as observers to the AMRWG biannual meetings. Due to time constraints, these activities were not mentioned in the presentation but could be accessed through the meeting reports of the AMRWG. Dr Ishibashi requested input from the Antimicrobial Resistance and Veterinary Products (AMR&VP) Department on aquatic animals, and also advised that the AMR-related chapters for aquatic animals needed to be revised in the *Aquatic Animal Health Code (Aquatic Code)*. By this report, the AMR&VP team informed the Assembly that the current ANIMUSE database covered 65% of the total aquatic animals biomass worldwide and that WOAHA had initiated a series of targeted capacity-building seminars attended by Focal Points for Aquatic Animals and Focal Points for Veterinary Products, fostering synergies between both services.

112. Dr Arroyo informed the Assembly that, due to the lack of a quorum when the AMRWG's activities were presented, Resolution No. 35 would be brought to the agenda for adoption in the coming days.

Second Plenary Session

Activities of the Specialist Commissions

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission ([91 GS/Tech-04](#))

113. Dr Etienne Bonbon, President of the Code Commission, reported on the work of the Commission since the previous General Session.
114. Acknowledging that this year marked the end of the term for the current Code Commission membership, Dr Bonbon briefly summarised the achievements of the Code Commission during its term from 2021 to 2024. Dr Bonbon highlighted the highly productive work that led to the completion of several longstanding items in the Commission's work programme, as well progress of several overarching items such as the completion of the revision of Section 3, excellent progress on the ongoing work to update Section 4, the commencement of work to update key chapters in Section 5 to provide up-to-date standards on import and export measures and procedures, and the improvements of the User's Guide. Dr Bonbon also highlighted the efforts made by the Commission together with the WOAHA Secretariat and other Specialist Commissions to further strengthen the collaboration amongst Commissions as well as the development of clearer procedures to improve the transparency and documentation of the process for the elaboration of WOAHA Standards. Dr Bonbon highlighted that during this term the Commission had also undertaken specific initiatives to contribute to WOAHA's Seventh Strategic Plan, notably the standardisation of content of the *Terrestrial Code*, improvements in communications with Members to increase their awareness and participation, such as commenting on the Commission's work programme, as well as the engagement with partner International Organisations.
115. Dr Bonbon stated that the Commission had met twice since the 2023 General Session. These meetings were held physically from 5 to 14 September 2023 and from 6 to 16 February 2024. He expressed his gratitude to the members of the Code Commission, Dr Gaston Funes (Vice-President), Prof. Salah Hammami (Vice-President), Dr Lucio Ignacio Carbajo Goñi, Dr Kiyokazu Murai and Dr Bernardo Todeschini, for their expert contributions, dedication and commitment to the work of the Commission, including their participation in *ad hoc* Group meetings, representing the Commission at regional or international meetings and engaging in inter-sessional work.

116. On behalf of the Commission, Dr Bonbon commended the Reference Centre experts, members of *ad hoc* Groups and subject matter experts for their contribution to the work of the Commission. He also expressed his appreciation to the members of the other Specialist Commissions for their advice and support and acknowledged the strengthened collaboration and coordination among the four Specialist Commissions. In this regard, Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that the Bureaus of the Code Commission and the Aquatic Animals Commission had met in September 2023, the Bureaus of the Code Commission and the Biological Standards Commission had met in September 2023, and the Bureaus of the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission had met in February 2024.
117. Dr Bonbon reminded the Assembly that the details of the Code Commission's activities since the previous General Session had been published in the Commission's September 2023 and February 2024 meeting reports, which were available on the Delegates' website as well as on the WOAHA website and contained detailed information about the amended texts being proposed for adoption.
118. Dr Bonbon expressed his appreciation for the considerable number of comments submitted, both by Members and by International Organisations having a cooperation agreement with WOAHA, on texts that had been circulated for comment. He highlighted the improving quality of these comments and stressed that the standard-setting process could only be effective with the engagement of Members and partner Organisations. Dr Bonbon reminded Members that the Commission's reports included the Commission's considerations of comments received. He also informed the Assembly of the new process to improve transparency whereby comments from Members and partners on new and revised texts considered at the Code Commission's February 2024 meeting had been published on the Delegates' website.
119. Dr Bonbon also thanked the Director General and the Deputy Director General International Standards and Science and commended the Code Commission Secretariat for the tremendous support it provided to the work of the Commission, including relevant *ad hoc* Groups.
120. Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that the new and revised chapters to be proposed for adoption in the *Terrestrial Code* were presented in Annexes 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 of *91 GS/Tech-04*.

Terrestrial Animal Health Code

121. **Texts proposed for adoption**

Dr Bonbon indicated that the next section of his presentation would focus on presenting the new and revised texts of the *Terrestrial Code* that were to be proposed for adoption.

122. **Chapter 4.6. 'General hygiene in semen collection and processing centres'**

Dr Bonbon explained that the Code Commission had comprehensively revised Chapter 4.6. He explained the main amendments being proposed and provided a summary of the process undertaken to develop them, noting that the revision was undertaken by an *ad hoc* Group and the revised text had been circulated four times.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

123. **Chapter 4.7. 'Collection and processing of bovine, small ruminant and porcine semen'**

Dr Bonbon explained that the Commission had partially revised the chapter and proposed to delete Articles 4.7.5., 4.7.6. and 4.7.7. to avoid inconsistencies with the revised Chapter 4.6. He noted that the revised text had been circulated twice.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

124. **Chapter 6.10. 'Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine'**

Dr Bonbon explained that the Commission had comprehensively revised Chapter 6.10. He explained the main amendments being proposed and provided a summary of the process undertaken to develop them, noting that the revision had been undertaken in collaboration with the WOAAH Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance and the revised text had been circulated three times.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Sweden, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, thanked the Code Commission and the WOAAH Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance for their work on Chapter 6.10. and for having taken its comments into consideration. The EU acknowledged that this was an important piece of work that would ensure alignment with other chapters of the *Terrestrial Code*, would improve clarity for all stakeholders concerned and would contribute to curbing AMR in a One Health approach. The EU supported the adoption of the proposed texts but submitted additional comments for consideration by the Code Commission.

Eswatini, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the WOAAH Africa region, supported the adoption of the proposed text but expressed concerns regarding potential implementation challenges and regulatory difficulties. Eswatini also noted that some recommendations in the proposed Chapter 6.10. may exceed the roles and responsibilities of Veterinary Authorities in several Members in Africa, which could complicate enforcement. In addition, Africa faced challenges due to the importation of substandard antimicrobial agents and requested the Code Commission to consider these concerns in the future.

Saint Lucia, speaking on behalf of the 33 Members of the WOAAH Americas Region, requested that Articles 6.10.1., 6.10.3. and 6.10.6. be amended before the chapter was presented for adoption. Saint Lucia requested that Article 6.10.1., be amended to include a specific extract from the Codex Alimentarius Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance – Principle 12. Saint Lucia pointed out that the scope of this chapter should be aligned with the aforementioned text from the Codex Alimentarius.

Brazil, speaking on behalf of the 33 Members of the WOAAH Americas Region, proposed to delete the phrase 'which excludes growth promotion' in point 2 of Article 6.10.3., aiming at better alignment with the Codex Code of Practice, and would be redundant after the addition proposed by Saint Lucia in Article 6.10.1.

Japan thanked Dr Bonbon for the work of the Commission and mostly echoed the interventions by Members of the Americas. Japan highlighted the need for more clarity on the scope of this chapter. However, Japan noted that the intervention of Saint Lucia was unbalanced since the proposed text addressed mainly human health, instead of both animal and human health. Japan considered that there was a need to continue working to elaborate a clearer and more balanced text before adoption, and proposed that the chapter be circulated for comment one more time.

Ecuador supported the interventions made other Members of the Americas region and requested that the phrase 'exclude growth promotion' be also removed from Article 6.10.3.

Australia, speaking on behalf of 32 Members of the WOAAH Asia and the Pacific Region, could not support the adoption of the proposed chapter as it was not clear whether antimicrobial use for growth promotion was within the scope of the chapter, which would be a substantial change from previously circulated versions. The Asia and the Pacific region requested that Chapter 6.10. be recirculated for at least one additional round of comments prior to adoption, or that the specific references to 'growth promotion' added in February 2024 in Articles 6.10.3. and 6.10.6., be removed.

The United States of America reiterated the position of the 33 Members of the Americas region, not to support the adoption of this chapter without the introduction of the requested changes. The United States of America also suggested that the adoption of this chapter be postponed to allow for further revision of the text.

Denmark, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, thanked the Code Commission for its work, and requested to maintain the reference to the exclusion of growth promotion in Articles 6.10.3. and 6.10.6. Denmark noted that Article 6.10.6. dealt with the appropriate veterinary medical use of the selected product including antimicrobial agents, and highlighted that the current wording was fully aligned with the definitions contained in Chapter 6.9. of the *Terrestrial Code*, providing clear guidance to veterinarians for responsible and prudent veterinary medical use of antimicrobial agents.

Dr Bonbon thanked the Members for their active participation. In response to the comments on the scope of the chapter, Dr Bonbon noted that the *Terrestrial Code* had its own scope and objective, to which all its chapters were subject, and he stated that if Members would like to revise this, it should be proposed and discussed in the context of the work programme of the Commission, not as part of the discussion of a single chapter. Dr Bonbon noted that the scope of the group of Chapters 6.9., 6.10. and 6.11. had been decided by the Members in the past, and highlighted that the purpose of this revision was to revise some elements in the chapter that might be improved. Dr Bonbon highlighted that, as indicated in the title, this chapter focused on the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine, and not the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in general. Dr Bonbon also noted that the text of the chapter was adequate in the context of the *Code*, and while it was good practice to promote complementarity and avoid contradictions with other standard-setting organisations, such as Codex, that did not mean that texts should be the same, as each of them had its specific objectives and contexts. Based on this, Dr Bonbon did not agree with the proposals to insert the texts from the Codex Code of Practice.

Dr Bonbon proposed to add 'good' before 'animal husbandry' in Article 6.10.1. for clarity.

In response to the comments from the Americas region and the Asia and the Pacific region, Dr Bonbon agreed that the added reference to growth promotion could be confusing and proposed, in Article 6.10.3., to replace 'which excludes growth promotion' with 'as defined in Article 6.9.2.' because it was already defined in Chapter 6.9. and this cross reference was enough for the clarity of the paragraph.

In response to the comment from the African Union on the responsibilities of Veterinary Services, Dr Bonbon proposed to replace 'Veterinary Services' with 'The Competent Authority' in point 10 of Article 6.10.3. for clarity.

Dr Bonbon also proposed to remove 'exclude growth promotion and' after 'should' in point 3 of Article 6.10.6. because, following the above-mentioned amendment, it was an unnecessary repetition.

Dr Bonbon informed Members that some other comments of an editorial nature had been received in writing before the General Session and noted that he would propose some additional amendments to address them as they would improve the current text.

Dr Bonbon proposed to add 'the use of' after 'alternative to' in point 15 f) of Article 6.10.6. to accurately reflect the intent of the sentence.

Dr Bonbon proposed to replace 'farmers keeping' with 'breeders, owners and keepers of' in point 1, and to replace 'producer' with 'breeder, owner or keeper' in point 4 of Article 6.10.7. to align with terminology used in the *Terrestrial Code*.

Botswana mentioned that they believed that the addition of specific references to growth promotion provided more clarity, and stated that they supported the adoption with the proposed changes.

Sweden congratulated Dr Bonbon for the proposals aimed at reaching a consensus and pointed out the importance of adopting the revised chapter.

South Africa agreed with the proposals provided and expressed thanks for the clarification of the definition for the competent authorities, which included governmental authorities other than the Veterinary Authority.

Australia thanked Dr Bonbon for considering their comments and supported the proposal.

The United States of America appreciated the changes made for Articles 6.10.3. and 6.10.6. and supported the proposal.

The President presented the revised text, with the aforementioned changes, to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

The Director General congratulated the Assembly for having adopted Chapter 6.10.

125. **Chapter 7.5. 'Slaughter of animals'**

Dr Bonbon explained that the Commission had comprehensively revised Chapter 7.5. He explained the main amendments being proposed and provided a summary of the process undertaken to develop them, noting that the revision had been undertaken by an *ad hoc* Group and the revised text had been circulated five times.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Ireland, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, thanked the Code Commission for its work on this chapter and supported adoption, with two editorial changes. In Article 7.5.13., point 3), to delete the word 'voluntarily', as the EU considered this word to be unnecessary and inconsistent with other text; and in Article 7.5.16., point 1), second paragraph, to delete the first sentence as this was a duplication of the last part of this paragraph.

Thailand, speaking on behalf of some Members of the WOAHA Asia and the Pacific Region, requested to remove the first paragraph of Article 7.5.28., point 4) regarding the recommendation for shackling heavy birds. Thailand considered that shackling of some heavy birds such as parent stock and end-of-lay hens needed to be addressed in the text because the head-only electrical water-bath stunning method required shackling, and it noted that in Thailand the halal-compliant method for poultry stunning at an industrial scale required shackling to use the water bath stunning method. In Article 7.5.30., Point 4), Thailand requested to remove minimum electrical parameters for some poultry and indicated that different parameters could result in effective stunning, without impacting the welfare or quality of the carcass.

New Zealand supported the intervention from Thailand to remove minimum electrical parameter ranges for electrical water-bath stunning for poultry.

The United Kingdom thanked the Commission for its work on the chapter and for taking its comments into consideration. The United Kingdom supported adoption of the revised chapter but requested that the Commission, at its next meeting, review the text in Article 7.5.19, Point 4)

related to pig gas stunning, as they were not aware of any scientific evidence to support the proposed text which indicated that the benefits of group handling typically found with gas stunning outweighed the severe aversion from some gas mixtures, such as high concentration CO₂ used for stunning.

The United States of America, speaking on behalf of the 33 Members of the WOAHA Americas Region, requested to replace the following text in Article 7.5.28 ‘Shackling of heavy birds such as parent flocks, or with birds that are more susceptible to fractures (e.g. end-of-lay hens)’ with ‘Shackling of heavy birds such as parent flocks, turkeys or with birds that are more susceptible to fractures (e.g. end-of-lay hens) should not result in distress, fear and pain (e.g. labored breathing, leg fractures)’.

China (People’s Rep. of) thanked the Commission for its work and requested the following amendments to support effective implementation by Members: in Article 7.5.28., point 4), to delete ‘for poultry, shackling should not be used with heavy birds such as parent flocks, turkeys or with birds that are more susceptible to fractures’, stating that shackling is a necessary step to stun, with electric stunning being widely used around the world.

Azerbaijan thanked the Commission for its work on Chapter 7.5 and supported its adoption. Azerbaijan suggested that as many countries used halal methods, future revisions of this chapter should consider halal slaughter with an animal welfare approach.

Dr Bonbon responded to the interventions made and explained that when the text was being drafted, the Code Commission had received support from *ad hoc* Groups and other subject matter experts, to ensure all recommendations were scientifically justified. Dr Bonbon encouraged Members to consult both *ad hoc* Group and Working Group reports, as they provided the relevant scientific evidence to support the proposed text.

Dr Bonbon explained that minor editorial changes proposed (which did not alter the meaning of the chapter) would not be included in the 2024 General Session report. Instead, these changes would be reflected in Resolution No 30 adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024.

Dr Bonbon proposed several additional amendments to address interventions as well as some written comments submitted prior to the General Session.

Dr Bonbon agreed to a written comment sent by the United States of America to replace ‘animal vocalisation referring to distress’ with ‘animal vocalisation indicative of distress’ in Article 7.5.14. Point 2), letter (g and 7.5.14., Point 2), letter d), as ‘indicative’ was deemed a more appropriate choice of word.

In Article 7.5.7., second paragraph, Dr Bonbon, agreed to replace ‘in charge of’ with ‘carrying out’, after the word ‘Personnel’, as the recommendation was addressed precisely to the persons carrying out the stunning procedure. Dr Bonbon did not agree with the comment in Article 7.5.10., second paragraph, to replace the word ‘minimising’ with ‘preventing’, explaining that it was only possible to minimise rather than to entirely prevent pain, fear or suffering during slaughter.

In response to Ireland’s intervention on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, regarding Article 7.5.13., Point 3), Dr Bonbon explained that this had already been addressed in the most recent revised version of Chapter 7.5, which was appended to the February 2024 Code Commission Report.

Dr Bonbon agreed to Ireland's intervention on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU to delete the duplicate sentence at the beginning of the second paragraph in Article 7.5.16., Point 1) referring to scientifically validated stunning methods.

In response to the United Kingdom's intervention regarding Article 7.5.19., Point 4, Dr Bonbon proposed to replace the words 'as they can' with 'and', which would condition the use of gas stunning methods to actual welfare benefits of handling pig in groups.

Dr Bonbon, in response Member interventions regarding Article 7.5.28., Point 4), concerning the shackling of heavy birds, explained that this was a strong animal welfare recommendation and proposed not to delete text. However, he suggested to take into consideration the rationale presented by the United States of America and replace the proposed sentence with the following text: 'Shackling of heavy birds such as parent flocks, turkeys or birds that are more susceptible to fractures (e.g. end-of-lay hens) should only be operated by specifically trained staff with adequate equipment, in a manner to minimise distress, fear and pain.'

Thailand and China (People's Rep. of), supported by New Zealand, referring to Article 7.5.30, Point 4, to remove the text on minimum electrical parameters, stating that there were multiple species where guidance on electrical parameters for poultry was required, to differentiate reactions between species and different types of currents.

Dr Bonbon, in response to the comments of Thailand, China (People's Rep. of) and New Zealand, on the recommended electrical parameters in Article 7.5.30., Point 4), explained that recommendations were not obligations, but were guidance for Members to build their own regulatory frameworks, based on scientifically established facts, and this should stay in the *Code* as it was expected by Members. In order to better clarify how Members could adapt these recommendations to the situations prevailing in different regions, he proposed to add, in the second paragraph, the words 'and field evidence' after 'scientific data' and 'and conditions' between 'types' and 'of animals'. In the same Article, Dr Bonbon proposed to add at the end of both recommendations of recommended maximum frequency of electrical parameters for some species of poultry, the words 'under study' between square brackets. Dr Bonbon proposed to continue reviewing this recommendation at the meeting of the *ad hoc* Group currently reviewing Chapter 7.6. 'Killing for disease control purposes', and asked China (People's Rep. of) to send any data that would support a modification of these recommendations.

Chile, speaking on behalf of the 33 Members of the WOAHA Americas Region, thanked the the Code Commission for taking their comments into account and supported the adoption of the proposed chapter.

China (People's Rep. of) voiced appreciation for the response and indicated that they would discuss recommended electrical parameters for electrical water-bath stunning with national experts and the industry.

The United Kingdom, in response to the proposal of a modification by Dr Bonbon for Article 7.5.30., point 4 2nd paragraph, requested to replace the words 'and field evidence' with 'with field evidence'. Dr Bonbon agreed to this proposal.

The President presented the revised text, with the aforementioned changes, to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted, with one objection (Thailand) and one abstention (China [People's Rep. of]).

126. Chapter 8.8. 'Infection with foot and mouth disease virus'

Dr Bonbon reminded the Assembly that the Commission had comprehensively revised Chapter 8.8. He then referred to the discussions held with the Assembly at its 90th General Session on the proposed revised chapter and explained the main amendments introduced to the text to address the comments raised since the 90th General Session. He noted that the revision had been undertaken in collaboration with the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (the Scientific Commission), the Biological Standards Commission and the *ad hoc* Group on Foot and Mouth Disease, and the revised text had been circulated eight times.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

China (People's Rep. of) thanked the Code Commission for consideration of its previous comments and requested that the Commission reconsider the risk presented by African buffalo for the spread of FMD virus. China (People's Rep. of) did not agree that the risk should be considered 'rare'. They also did not agree that protein meal and extruded dry pet food could be considered as safe commodities considering there was a lack of internationally standardised processes for producing these commodities and production may include protein sources that had not passed ante- or post-mortem inspection. They considered that these commodities had an increased risk of disease transmission and therefore could not be considered as safe commodities.

Cyprus, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, thanked the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission for the clarifications provided in their February, 2024 meeting reports regarding the importation of FMD vaccinated animals and supported adoption of the revised chapter.

Argentina, speaking on behalf of the 33 Members of the WOAHA Americas Region, supported the adoption of Chapter 8.8. and thanked the Commission for having addressed its concerns.

Japan appreciated the long-term efforts of the Code Commission and other relevant expert bodies in the revision of this chapter. Japan commented that they were not able to support adoption of the chapter because of the provision that allowed the importation of vaccinated animals from countries or zones free from FMD where vaccination is practised into countries or zones free from FMD where vaccination is not practised under certain conditions. Japan stressed that it was a fundamental premise that animal populations within a country or zone officially recognized by WOAHA for specific disease should, in principle, be in the same animal health status, consequently animals from a country with a lower health status should not be imported into countries with a higher health status. Therefore, Japan expressed its concern and commented that if animals with a different health status were allowed to enter, as proposed, it would undermine the meaning of recognising zones. It could also send the wrong message that individual animal imports could be judged based on individual test results regardless of the disease situation or the zone of place of shipment. Furthermore, Japan noted that if a country is requested to import vaccinated animals from an exporting country, the importing country could be forced to bear additional administrative burdens, such as conducting risk assessments, which could significantly harm the interest of the importing country.

Botswana congratulated the Commission on its work on this chapter and supported adoption.

Thailand appreciated the work of the Code Commission and supported adoption of the chapter. Thailand appreciated that the new article would allow for compartments recognised FMD free where vaccination is practised and noted that this would be beneficial for Members to ensure the safe trade of susceptible animals and relevant commodities.

India commented that it imported large quantities of horns and expressed concern that the FMD chapter did not recommend risk mitigation measures for horns. They requested that the Code Commission consider risk mitigations for horns in the future.

Morocco, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the WOAHA Africa region, thanked the Code Commission and supported adoption of this chapter.

Uruguay, speaking on behalf of the 33 Members of the WOAHA Americas Region, responded to the comment from Japan and noted that cattle in South America were only vaccinated for FMD strains prevalent in South America and that non-bovine animals were not vaccinated so they served as sentinel animals. Uruguay did not consider that there was a need for additional surveillance in countries that wished to import FMD vaccinated animals, and that it should be sufficient to simply track those animals.

Brazil, speaking on behalf of the 33 Members of the WOAHA Americas Region, supported adoption of the chapter. Brazil reminded Members that the risk associated with the importation of FMD vaccinated livestock coming from regions that were FMD free was negligible as the virus was not circulating in those regions.

The United States of America, speaking on behalf of the 33 Members of the WOAHA Americas Region, commented that the risk mitigation measures proposed were sufficient and there would be no need for additional risk mitigations. In addition, serological tests were available to differentiate between vaccinated and non-vaccinated animals with titres. They supported adoption of the chapter.

Dr Bonbon first repeated that the assessment of safe commodities was realised with the support of experts and thorough study of the data provided by the industry for standardised process of production, and that 'protein meal' was a defined term in the *Code Glossary*, and that the conclusion was that 'protein meal' and 'extruded dry pet food' had been assessed as safe commodities for FMD. He then highlighted that the *Terrestrial Code* did not address import risks of individual animals without also considering the animal health status of the zone of origin of the animals. He noted that the import of FMD vaccinated animals from an FMD infected zone required different risk mitigation measures than those imported from a zone that is FMD free where vaccination is practised, and that the current articles on trade of the chapter achieved their risk mitigation objectives.

In response to India's comment, Dr Bonbon noted that Article 8.8.30 addressed trophies and may be considered for risk mitigation measures for horns. Additionally, there were articles on FMD virus inactivation for products that may also be applicable to horns. India noted that the horns they import and process were rather industrial products and not trophies. Dr Bonbon agreed to propose that the next Code Commission further discuss risk mitigation applicable to this commodity.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The proposed text was adopted with, two objections (Australia and Japan), and one abstention (China [People's Rep. of]).

Argentina reminded Members of the importance of implementing new standards and that FMD free countries should recognise the official WOAHA status of Members and the sanitary measures recommended as per the *Terrestrial Code*. Dr Bonbon reminded Members of the importance of undertaking a risk assessment, as described in the *Terrestrial Code*, if a Member wished to require measures that differed from those in the WOAHA international standards.

Dr Bonbon reiterated his support for all members to implement the WOAHA standards.

127. Chapter 1.11. 'Application for official recognition by WOAHA of free status for foot and mouth disease'

Dr Bonbon explained that the Commission was proposing a revision of Chapter 1.11. to ensure alignment with amendments proposed for the revised Chapter 8.8. He noted that the revision had been undertaken in collaboration with the Scientific Commission and the new revised Chapter 1.11. had been circulated twice.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

New Zealand requested that Dr Bonbon confirm that the surveillance requirements did not apply to historically free countries.

Cyprus, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, supported adoption of the chapter.

Belgium, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, condemned the “*unprovoked Russian aggression*” against Ukraine, which it considered irresponsible, as well as the increased animal health risks in Ukraine and beyond.

The United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the Quads Alliance, joined the EU in support of a peaceful and prosperous world.

Dr Bonbon responded to the interventions on the draft text and indicated that Members should submit any questions they might have about reporting and surveillance requirements applicable to their situation to the WOAHA Secretariat.

He specified that the maintenance of the status of a historically free country relies on surveillance as provided for in the relevant points of Article 1.4.6. and the country's ability to prevent entry of FMD through the application of the other relevant recommendations of Chapter 8.8.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

128. Article 8.16.8. of Chapter 8.16. ‘Infection with Rift Valley fever virus’

Dr Bonbon explained that the Commission was proposing a revision of Article 8.16.8. of Chapter 8.16. to align with the revised Chapter 3.1.19. of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual)* adopted at the 90th General Session. He noted that the revision had been undertaken in consideration of a recommendation of the Biological Standards Commission and the revised text had been circulated twice.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Benin, on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the WOAHA Africa region, supported adoption of the revised article. Benin noted that Rift Valley fever was an important disease for both cattle and humans and highlighted the importance of protecting the cattle populations in African countries.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

129. Article 8.18.1. of Chapter 8.18. ‘Infection with *Trichinella* spp.’

Dr Bonbon explained that the Commission was proposing a revision of Article 8.18.1. of Chapter 8.18. to align with the revised Chapter 3.1.22. of the *Terrestrial Manual* adopted at the 90th General Session. He noted that the revision had been undertaken in consideration of a recommendation of the Biological Standards Commission and the revised text had been circulated twice.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Poland, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, thanked Dr Bonbon for taking into consideration previous comments submitted and supported adoption. Poland noted that they had submitted some comments prior to the General Session and requested that the Commission consider these at its next meeting.

Dr Bonbon acknowledged the proposals from the EU and indicated that they would be considered at the next revision of the chapter.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

130. **Chapter 8.X. 'Infection with *Coxiella burnetii* (Q fever)'**

Dr Bonbon explained that the Commission had developed a new Chapter 8.X. 'Infection with *Coxiella burnetii* (Q fever)' and noted that an amendment to the disease name in Chapter 1.3. would also be proposed to align with this chapter title. He explained that the new chapter consisted of a single article for general provisions, including definitions for the disease and its occurrence, for Members to fulfil their notification obligations. Dr Bonbon noted that the development had been undertaken in collaboration with the Scientific Commission and the new Chapter 8.X. had been circulated four times.

Dr Bonbon presented the new chapter to the Assembly.

The President presented the new chapter to the Assembly for adoption.

The new chapter was adopted unanimously.

131. **Chapter 8.Z. 'Infection with *Trypanosoma evansi*'**

Dr Bonbon explained that the Commission had developed a new Chapter 8.Z. 'Infection with *Trypanosoma evansi*' as part of the ongoing work to develop separate chapters on animal trypanosomes to address different trypanosome species and animal hosts. He noted that the development had been undertaken by an *ad hoc* Group and in collaboration with the Scientific Commission, and the new Chapter 8.Z. had been circulated three times.

Dr Bonbon presented the new chapter to the Assembly.

Thailand requested the deletion of 'meat from animals that have been slaughtered in a slaughterhouse/abattoir and have been subjected to ante- and post-mortem inspections with favourable results' from the list of safe commodities in Article 8.Z.2, and proposed that Article 8.Z.11bis be reinstated as it provided recommendations for the importation of fresh meat from susceptible animals from countries or zones infected with *Trypanosoma evansi*.

Australia, speaking on behalf of 32 Members of the WOAHA Asia and the Pacific region, did not support the proposed Article 8.Z.11 and requested that the article is not proposed for adoption. Instead, it requested to further review the article, applying current literature and strong evidence-based principles. Australia noted that the article was not consistent with the current science and was more restrictive than warranted.

In response to the interventions made, Dr Bonbon first proposed to retain 'meat.[...].results' as a safe commodity and noted that this had been extensively discussed and the scientific justification was noted in the February 2024 report of the Code Commission, which concluded that such meat complied with the conditions of safe commodity as described in Chapter 2.2.

On the other hand, Dr Bonbon agreed that the risk mitigation measures required to export semen could be modified rather than deleted, and proposed the following amendments to Article 8.Z.11 by replacing point 1 in the proposed revised chapter.

- '1) the donor males:
- a) showed no clinical sign of ~~infection with *T. evansi*~~ surra on the day of semen collection;
 - b) have been kept for at least ~~six months~~ 90 days prior to semen collection in a free country, *zone* or *compartment*; and'

with the following:

- '1) the donor males:
 - a) showed no clinical sign of surra on the day of semen collection;
- AND
- b) either:
 - i) have been kept for at least 90 days prior to semen collection in an establishment in which surveillance in accordance with Articles 8.Z.12., 8.Z.13. and 8.Z.14. demonstrates that no case had occurred during that period; or
 - ii) were subjected to an antibody detection test on a blood sample taken on two occasions, with an interval of 30 days, with negative results;

Australia expressed appreciation for the solution proposed by Dr Bonbon, and although it did not address all its concerns, was willing to support adoption of the chapter.

The President presented the new chapter to the Assembly for adoption.

The new chapter was adopted unanimously.

132. Articles 13.2.1. and 13.2.2. of Chapter 13.2. 'Rabbit haemorrhagic disease'

Dr Bonbon explained that the Commission was proposing a revision of Articles 13.2.1. and 13.2.2. of Chapter 13.2. He highlighted that the revision aimed to include definitions for the disease and its occurrence, for Members to fulfil their notification obligations. Dr Bonbon noted that the revision had been undertaken in collaboration with the Scientific Commission and the revised text had been circulated three times.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised texts to the Assembly.

Senegal, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the WOAHAfrica region, supported the adoption of the revised articles. Senegal wished to highlight that the surveillance of wild leporids described in Article 13.2.2. remained difficult to achieve.

Dr Bonbon acknowledged Senegal's comment and noted that the Commission would continue to work on the chapter and consider comments previously received.

The President presented the revised texts to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised texts were adopted unanimously.

133. Article 15.1.2. of Chapter 15.1. 'Infection with African swine fever virus'

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that the Commission was proposing a partial revision of Article 15.1.2. of Chapter 15.1. to amend the list of safe commodities. Dr Bonbon noted that the revised text had been circulated twice.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

China (People's Rep. of) expressed the view that 'extruded dry pet food' and 'protein meal' should not be considered as safe commodities, considering there was a lack of internationally standardised processes for producing these commodities and production may include protein sources that had not passed ante- or post-mortem inspection. China (People's Rep. of) expressed the view that these commodities should not be imported into the country without quarantine.

Dr Bonbon reiterated the elements of response already given for the same question for FMD, and proposed that Members that had scientific evidence that would contradict the assessments, should provide them with relevant documentations to the Commission.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted, with one abstention (China [People's Rep. of]).

134. **Chapter 16.Z. 'Infection with Camelpox virus'**

Dr Bonbon explained that the Commission had developed a new Chapter 16.Z. 'Infection with Camelpox virus'. He explained that the new chapter consisted of a single article for general provisions, including definitions for the disease and its occurrence, for Members to fulfil their notification obligations. Dr Bonbon noted that the development had been undertaken in collaboration with the Scientific Commission and the new Chapter 16.Z. had been circulated four times.

Dr Bonbon presented the new chapter to the Assembly.

The President presented the new chapter to the Assembly for adoption.

The new chapter was adopted unanimously.

135. **Glossary**

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that the Commission was proposing to add new Glossary definitions for 'animal product', 'biological product' and 'germinal products'; to revise the definitions for 'commodity', 'euthanasia', 'slaughter' and 'stunning'; to replace the definition for 'artificial insemination centre' with 'semen collection centre'; and to delete definitions for 'death' and 'greaves'.

Dr Bonbon noted that the proposed amendments had been circulated twice for 'biological product', 'artificial insemination centre' and 'greaves', three times for 'animal product', 'commodity' and 'germinal products'; and five times for 'death', 'euthanasia', 'slaughter' and 'stunning'.

Dr Bonbon presented the new and revised texts to the Assembly.

Canada, speaking on behalf of the 33 Members of the WOAHA Americas Region, thanked the Code Commission for its work and its willingness to make the poultry definition a high priority in the work programme. They requested that the review of the poultry definition be assigned to an expert group and thanked the Code Commission for the transparency of its work programme. Canada also thanked the Code Commission for the work done to improve the visibility and presentation of the Commission's work programme, which had allowed Members to increase their participation.

Brazil, speaking on behalf of the 33 Members of the WOAHA Americas Region, thanked the Code Commission for taking into consideration the challenges countries faced with avian influenza and requested that, when the expert group was being created to review the poultry definition, experts from the Americas region would be included, as suggested.

Colombia, speaking on behalf of the 33 Members of the WOAHA Americas Region, requested that work to review the poultry definition be advanced so that it could be presented at the next General Session. This would help to guarantee that international trade of domestic birds would still be possible in the event of an HPAI outbreak.

Dr Bonbon highlighted that Dr David Swayne was the chair of the *ad hoc* Group that had proposed the current definition. He confirmed that the revision of the definition was a high priority in the work programme of the Commission.

Dr Arroyo reminded Members that they could propose experts at any time through the public link on the WOAHP website, as indicated in the Specialist Commissions reports, and confirmed that these experts would be taken into consideration for upcoming work, such as potential future *ad hoc* Groups.

The President presented the new and revised texts to the Assembly for adoption.

The new and revised texts were adopted unanimously.

136. **Chapter 1.3. 'Disease, infections and infestations listed by WOAHP'**

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that the Commission had partially revised Chapter 1.3. He explained that the amendments proposed were to reorder the articles and to amend the animal categories to align with the order used in sections of Volume II of the *Terrestrial Code*; to reorder the diseases in each article in alphabetical order; and to align the disease names with the title of the corresponding disease-specific chapter, as relevant. Dr Bonbon highlighted that changes were also being proposed for some disease names, to align them with new or revised chapters being proposed for adoption. Dr Bonbon noted that the revision had been undertaken in collaboration with the Scientific Commission and the proposed amendments had been circulated twice.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised chapter to the Assembly.

Hungary, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, supported adoption of the revised chapter. Hungary reiterated its previous requests that SARS-Cov2 be evaluated to determine if it met the listing criteria, and for the results of that evaluation to be shared with Members.

Dr Bonbon reminded Members that there was a specific process to review diseases to determine if they met the listing criteria. Members should send any requests in writing to the WOAHP Secretariat requesting that a disease be evaluated.

The President presented the revised chapter to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised chapter was adopted unanimously.

137. **Terminology: Use of terms 'Competent Authority', 'Veterinary Authority' and 'Veterinary Services'**

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that, after the adoption of revised Glossary definitions for 'Competent Authority', 'Veterinary Authority' and 'Veterinary Services' in 2022, the Commission had undertaken a horizontal analysis of the use of these terms throughout the *Terrestrial Code*, and proposed amendments to several articles to harmonise terminology.

Dr Bonbon noted that the revised text had been circulated three times.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

138. **Work programme**

Dr Bonbon encouraged Members and partners to participate in the WOAHP standard-setting process through the provision of written comments on the work programme and on the new and revised texts circulated for comment in the Code Commission's February 2024 meeting report, and noted that the deadline for WOAHP Headquarters to receive comments was 12 July 2024 at TCC.Secretariat@woah.org.

139. The Assembly noted the report of the Code Commission.
140. During the Third Plenary Session, after the adoption of Resolution No. 30, Argentina recognized the great contribution made by Dr Bernardo Todeschini and Dr Lucio Carbajo to the work of the Code Commission over their past two terms.

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases ([91GS/Tech-05](#))

141. Dr Cristóbal Zepeda, President of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission), thanked the other members of the Scientific Commission and members of the *ad hoc* Groups and expert panels for their valuable contributions to the work of the Scientific Commission since the General Session in May 2023. Dr Zepeda also extended his gratitude to the outgoing members of the Scientific Commission. In addition, he expressed his deep appreciation for the excellent support and professional expertise provided by the staff of the Status and Science Departments at WOAHA Headquarters.

Dr Zepeda summarised the activities of the Scientific Commission, including the outcomes of the regular Scientific Commission meetings held in person from [11 to 15 September 2023](#) and from [12 to 16 February 2024](#). He noted that the reports of the two regular meetings were available on the [WOAH website](#).

142. Dr Zepeda also indicated that the draft resolutions relating to animal health status recognition had been presented for adoption by the Assembly using the adapted procedure before the General Session, and that the results obtained through the electronic voting process would be presented by the President of the Assembly during the Third Plenary Session.
143. After a presentation on the report by the President of the Scientific Commission, the President of the Assembly opened the floor for discussion.
144. In response to a question by South Africa, Dr Zepeda clarified that should Members import commodities from countries or zones not officially recognised as free by WOAHA, the Terrestrial Code provisions on importation from an infected country or zone should be followed. In the case of alternative measures to the ones stipulated in these articles being applied to the imported commodities, Members should provide documented evidence demonstrating an equivalent level of risk mitigation according to Chapter 5.3. of the *Terrestrial Code*.
145. Denmark, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, congratulated the Scientific Commission for its continuous and crucial work. Denmark welcomed the work initiated by the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission with the support of the WOAHA Secretariats to streamline and lighten the requirements for maintenance of official animal health status as requested by the EU. The EU offered to support this work in any way possible.

In response, Dr Zepeda explained that the Scientific Commission had been working, over the past several years, to enhance the credibility of the process of granting and maintaining official animal health status. Nevertheless, he recognised that this process could be lighter so as not to overburden Members while maintaining the rigour and credibility of the annual reconfirmation process. He indicated that the Scientific Commission would continue to work in that direction.

146. Denmark, also expressed concerns that since the first notification of SARS-CoV-2 in animals, over four years had passed without assessing if the pathogen met the WOAHA listing criteria. The EU noted the Scientific Commission's opinion that including SARS-CoV-2 in the WOAHA list of diseases might not meet the overall objective of listing. At the same time, the Scientific Commission had advised that SARS-CoV-2 remained an emerging disease of animals for the purpose of reporting to WOAHA. Denmark emphasised that the decision to include new diseases in the WOAHA list of diseases should be taken by the Assembly. Therefore, the EU Members requested that an *ad hoc* Group be convened to conduct the assessment of SARS-CoV-2 against the listing criteria. The outcome of the assessment, after being reviewed by the relevant Specialist Commissions, should be presented to the Assembly for a decision.

Dr Zepeda confirmed that the assessment of SARS-CoV-2 against the listing criteria was included in the work programme of the Scientific Commission. The next steps would be identified in coordination with WOAHS Secretariats and other Specialist Commissions.

147. Dr Zepeda thanked the Members for their comments.
148. The Assembly noted the report of the Scientific Commission.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 35:
Revised recommendations of the WOAHS List of Antimicrobials of Veterinary Importance**

149. Dr Idoyaga Benítez briefly reminded the Assembly the revision of the recommendations of the WOAHS List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance, to ensure alignment with the changes in the categorisation criteria of the WHO List of Medically Important Antimicrobials. As the related resolution was not presented for adoption due to the lack of quorum on Tuesday, the President of the Assembly presented the Draft Resolution No. 35 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 35 at the end of this report.

***Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission* ([91GS/Tech-06](#))**

150. Dr Ingo Ernst, President of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Aquatic Animals Commission), reported on the work of the Commission since the previous General Session.
151. Dr Ernst provided an overview of global aquatic animal production and statistics on traded aquatic animals to provide context for the importance of the standards being proposed for adoption. He highlighted the continued growth of aquatic animal production, its increasing importance for human nutrition, food security and economies, and the potential impacts of emerging diseases. He noted that the standards of the *Aquatic Code* and the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals (Aquatic Manual)* provide critical support to Members to control the transboundary spread of diseases.
152. Acknowledging that this year marked the end of the term for the current Aquatic Animals Commission, Dr Ernst presented an overview of the key achievements of the Aquatic Animals Commission during its term from 2021 to 2024. He highlighted the Commission's work on the revision of standards on aquatic animal disease surveillance, safe commodity assessments, the listing of 'infection with tilapia lake virus' and drafting of new chapters, among other significant achievements. Dr Ernst also emphasised the Commission's work on the *Aquatic Manual* with the methodical review and revision of all chapters and the application of a new template. He also highlighted the launch of the WOAHS Aquatic Animal Health Strategy and the progress made with implementing it.
153. Dr Ernst stated that the Aquatic Animals Commission had met twice since the 2023 General Session. The meetings were held in Paris from 13 to 20 September 2023 and from 14 to 21 February 2024. He expressed his gratitude to the members of the Commission, Dr Alicia Gallardo Lagno (Vice-President), Dr Fiona Geoghegan (Vice-President), Dr Kevin William Christison (Member), Dr Hong Liu (Member) and Dr Espen Rimstad (Member), for their expert contributions and commitment to the work of the Commission, including their participation in *ad hoc* Group meetings and representing the Commission at regional or international meetings.
154. Dr Ernst commended the Reference Centre experts, the members of *ad hoc* Groups and subject matter experts for their contribution to the work of the Aquatic Animals Commission. Dr Ernst informed the Delegates that the Bureaus of the Aquatic Animals Commission and the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission had met in September 2023 to facilitate harmonisation of relevant chapters under review. He further reported that the Bureaus of the Aquatic Animals Commission and the Biological Standards Commission had met in February 2024 to facilitate harmonisation between the two Commissions on relevant topics, such as Reference Centres. He also commended the Secretariat staff at WOAHS Headquarters for the tremendous support they provided to the work of the Commission and *ad hoc* Groups.

155. Dr Ernst highlighted that the working document distributed for the current General Session (91 GS/Tech-06) provided key background information for each of the new and revised texts of the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* to be presented for adoption. Dr Ernst reminded the Assembly that the details of the Aquatic Animals Commission's activities since the previous General Session had been published in the Commission's [September 2023](#) and [February 2024](#) meeting reports, and were available on both the Delegate's website and the [WOAH website](#).
156. Dr Ernst thanked Members that had submitted comments on texts to be proposed for adoption. He noted the importance of contributions by Members' experts in improving the quality of the standards, and encouraged all Members to contribute to this work. He reminded the Assembly that the Aquatic Animals Commission reports included the considerations of comments received. He encouraged the Assembly to refer to previous reports for more details about the amended texts being proposed for adoption. He also informed the Assembly that the comments on new and revised standards considered during the February 2024 Commission meeting had been published on the Delegates' website.
157. Dr Ernst emphasised that, where relevant, all comments on a specific disease were considered in corresponding *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* chapters to ensure alignment.
158. Concluding his introductory remarks, Dr Ernst reminded Delegates that the work plan of the Aquatic Animals Commission and the latest new and revised texts circulated for comment were available in the Commission's February 2024 meeting report and that they were invited to submit comments to WOA Headquarters by 5 July 2024.
159. Dr Ernst informed Delegates that the new and revised chapters to be proposed for adoption in the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* were presented in Annexes 4 to 6 and 8 to 39, and Annexes 51 to 59, respectively, of 91 GS/Tech-06.

Aquatic Animal Health Code

160. **Texts proposed for adoption**

Dr Ernst indicated that the next section of his presentation would focus on presenting the new and revised texts of the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* that were being proposed for adoption. He commenced with texts to be proposed for the *Aquatic Code*.

Finland, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, confirmed that the EU supported the adoption of all the proposed *Aquatic Code* annexes.

161. **Usage of Glossary definitions: 'Aquatic Animal Health Services', 'Competent Authority', and 'Veterinary Authority'**

Dr Ernst explained that, following the adoption, in May 2022, of the revised Glossary definitions for 'Aquatic Animal Health Services', 'Competent Authority' and 'Veterinary Authority', the Aquatic Animals Commission had proposed amendments to the relevant section of the *Aquatic Code* to ensure consistent usage (as per Annex 4 of 91 GS/Tech-06). He noted that the text on the usage of Glossary definitions had been circulated three times.

Dr Ernst presented the revised usage of 'Aquatic Animal Health Services', 'Competent Authority' and 'Veterinary Authority' to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised usage of 'Aquatic Animal Health Services', 'Competent Authority' and 'Veterinary Authority' to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

162. Usage of Glossary definition: ‘aquatic animal products’

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that to ensure consistent usage of some glossary terms, amendments were proposed to replace ‘products of animal origin’ with the glossary term ‘aquatic animal products’ in relevant sections of the *Aquatic Code* (as per Annex 5 of 91 GS/Tech-06). He noted that the text on the usage of ‘aquatic animal products’ had been circulated twice.

Dr Ernst presented the revised usage of ‘aquatic animal products’ to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised usage of ‘aquatic animal products’ to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

163. Article 1.1.5. of Chapter 1.1. ‘Notification of disease and provision of epidemiological information’

Dr Ernst reported that the Aquatic Animals Commission proposed to delete Article 1.1.5. of Chapter 1.1. ‘Notification of disease and provision of epidemiological information’ (as per Annex 6 of 91 GS/Tech-06). He explained that the requirements in Article 1.1.5. were now addressed in the revised Chapter 1.4. ‘Aquatic animal disease surveillance’, which had been adopted in May 2022, and the deletion of Article 1.1.5. would remove duplication from the *Aquatic Code*. He also noted that the deletion of Article 1.1.5. aligned with changes made in the *Terrestrial Code*, to allow for consistency in articles relating to notification. He noted that the revised text had been circulated three times.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

164. Article 1.3.1. of Chapter 1.3. ‘Diseases listed by WOA’

Dr Ernst explained that the Aquatic Animals Commission proposed to replace ‘infection with red sea bream iridovirus’ by ‘infection with *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1*’. He explained that this would reflect the new name for this species that had been published by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV) since the Commission’s February 2024 report. He noted that the proposed resolution would be amended from ‘infection with the genogroups of the virus species infectious spleen and kidney necrosis virus’ (as per Annex 8 of 91 GS/Tech-06) to ‘infection with *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1*’ in order to reflect this updated name.

Dr Ernst described how infection with *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1* may cause significant disease in fish. He noted that red sea bream iridovirus (RSIV), which causes the WOA listed disease ‘infection with RSIV’, is a genogroup of *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1*. In addition to RSIV, *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1* also includes the genogroup infectious spleen and kidney necrosis virus (ISKNV) and the genogroup turbot reddish body iridovirus (TRBIV). He noted that the Commission proposed listing ‘infection with *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1*’ and it would be defined to include the three genogroups ISKNV, RSIV and TRBIV.

Dr Ernst explained that the virus species *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1*, including its three genogroups (ISKNV, RSIV, and TRBIV) had been assessed against the criteria in Article 1.2.2. of Chapter 1.2. ‘Criteria for listing aquatic animal diseases’. He noted that the Commission had agreed that the three genogroups of ISKNV met listing criteria 1, 2, 3, and 4b and therefore was eligible for inclusion in the list of diseases in Chapter 1.3.

Dr Ernst noted that some Members had expressed concerns about the listing of the three genogroups of the virus species *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1*. He explained that concerns about the listing of the three genogroups included the widespread nature of the ISKNV genogroup in ornamental fish, the potential impact on trade and the performance of available diagnostic methods. He noted that the Commission had considered these concerns and provided detailed responses in its February 2024 report, which were summarised. He also summarised comments from Members in support of listing, which included the fact that the viruses had been shown to spread through transboundary trade, the risk they posed to food finfish aquaculture, and the view that listing would resolve confusion around diagnosis and provide guidance on prevention and control.

Dr Ernst noted that the revised text had been circulated four times.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Thailand stated that it did not support the adoption of the listing of 'infection with *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1*' as it did not agree that the third criteria for listing, requiring a precise case definition and reliable means of detection and diagnosis, had been met. Thailand stated that there was insufficient evidence to support the validity of diagnostic methods for the ISKNV and TRBIV genogroups. Thailand emphasised that more research was needed for the validation of diagnostic tests for the ISKNV and TRBIV genogroups to meet the requirements outlined in Chapter 1.1.2. of the *Aquatic Manual*.

Brazil, speaking on behalf of the 33 Members of the WOAHA Americas Region, stated they did not support the adoption of the listing of 'infection with *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1*'. The Members of the Americas region did not agree that the second criteria for listing, requiring that one country or zone may be able to demonstrate freedom, had been met. They explained that with the global distribution and wide range of susceptible species for the ISKNV genogroup there was insufficient evidence that any Member could declare freedom. The Members of the Americas region also emphasised there should be consideration of the impact that listing the ISKNV genogroup would have on trade, especially of ornamental fish.

Canada, speaking on behalf of the 33 Members of the WOAHA Americas Region, supported Brazil's statement and did not support the listing of 'infection with *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1*'. Canada suggested that to meet criteria 2 there should be a requirement for a Member to have made a self-declaration of freedom from the disease. In the absence of a self-declaration of freedom they did not support the adoption of the listing of 'infection with *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1*'.

Korea (Rep. of) did not support the adoption of the listing of 'infection with *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1*'. Korea (Rep. of) expressed concerns that the name change would lead to misidentification of a Member's status and that Member would be considered to have all genogroups present. Korea (Rep. of) requested that a different disease name be considered to avoid confusion.

Australia supported the adoption of the listing of 'infection with *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1*'. Australia noted that the three genogroups of *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1* had common epidemiology, susceptible species and diagnostic methods. Australia highlighted the risks of *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1* to aquaculture, fisheries and the conservation status of endangered and at-risk susceptible species. Australia requested WOAHA to consider options to allow Members to report each genogroup separately and welcomed guidance on managing global risks.

South Africa, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the WOAHA Africa region, supported the comments made by Australia in support of the listing of 'infection with *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1*'. They indicated that the ISKNV genogroup had impacted a country in Africa by affecting *Oreochromis niloticus*, a major aquaculture species in the Africa region. The Members of the African Union and the WOAHA Africa region emphasised that the listing of 'infection with *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1*' would protect food security and the economy related to aquaculture in the Africa region. They highlighted that the listing and associated standards would

allow the mobilisation of resources to effectively address the risks of the three genogroups of *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1*.

Finland, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, supported adoption of the listing of 'infection with *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1*'.

India supported the adoption of the listing of 'infection with *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1*'.

Dr Ernst thanked all the Members for their comments. He emphasised the comment from South Africa on the potentially devastating impact that the ISKNV genogroup could have on food fish aquaculture. Dr Ernst highlighted the wide environmental range of *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1* and the need for a cohesive approach by Members to safeguard aquatic animal production.

Dr Ernst responded to Thailand's concerns regarding criteria three and diagnostic tests and indicated that these concerns had been addressed in the Commission's February 2024 report. He pointed out that a reliable means of detection and diagnosis did not require a fully validated real-time PCR method and that there were several diagnostic methods which had been utilised for disease investigations for all genotypes of *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1*. Dr Ernst indicated that the reference laboratory network was planning to undertake an inter-laboratory comparison of diagnostic methods to determine the most appropriate methods of detection for *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1* for inclusion in a revised *Aquatic Manual* chapter.

In response to the concerns around the need for a self-declaration of freedom raised by multiple Members, Dr Ernst stated that it was imperative for aquatic diseases to be considered for listing without the pre-requisite of a declaration of freedom. He explained that the requirements for listing differed between the *Aquatic Code* and the *Terrestrial Code*, to allow for the listing of aquatic diseases when there may be less information available. Dr Ernst explained that it was common for aquatic diseases to emerge with a paucity of information and require timely listing, and he emphasised the ability to implement appropriate control measures was imperative. Dr Ernst emphasised that to require a declaration of freedom prior to the listing of a disease would be a barrier to the prompt and effective response to emerging threats by Members.

Dr Ernst indicated that the Commission was confident that 'infection with *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1*' met criteria 2 for listing. He explained that there were Members with basic biosecurity conditions in place, and surveillance that would support a declaration of freedom in a country or zone.

Dr Ernst responded to Korea (Rep. of) and informed the Assembly that the WOA World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department had confirmed that within WAHIS it would be possible to differentiate which genogroup a Member was reporting present in their country or zone. He emphasised that the ability to differentiate the genogroup would prevent confusion over the presence or absence of each genogroup in a country or zone. Dr Ernst indicated that this ability to report through WAHIS would also address the request raised by Australia.

Dr Ernst reminded Members of the information provided in the Commission's February 2024 report in response to the concerns over the listing's impact on trade. He highlighted that the appropriate application of the standards should not cause undue trade impacts, and noted the potential beneficial impacts of listing on trade. He also noted that the trade of ornamental fish may be impacted, but pointed out, however, that ornamental fish were not the only at-risk populations, and for some countries the potential impact on major food fish aquaculture species was a greater concern.

Dr Ernst reiterated from the February 2024 report that, if listed, *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1* could be a case study for WOA's Observatory to monitor implementation if resources permitted.

China (People's Rep. of) thanked the Commission for its comprehensive assessment for listing and supported the adoption of the listing of 'infection with *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1*'. China (People's Rep. of) noted that they had a large aquaculture industry and were taking steps towards having farms free from all three genogroups.

Argentina thanked Dr Ernst for his response to their concerns and indicated that the Members of the Americas region still did not consider that the listing met the second criteria for listing. They asked Dr Ernst to withdraw the proposal for listing to allow for further consideration of the evidence.

Dr Ernst thanked Argentina for their intervention and questioned what further evidence would be required for consideration to allow Members of the Americas region to consider the listing of 'infection with *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1*'. He voiced his concern should WOA's aquatic standards not address the most important diseases of aquatic animals and provide members with a means to effectively manage them.

Chile thanked the Commission for its work on the assessment of the three genogroups for listing. Chile noted that they had species susceptible to the ISKNV genogroup and had had surveillance in place for 10 years, with negative results, and were currently strengthening their surveillance to allow for a declaration of freedom. Chile requested that consideration be given to monitoring the implementation of standards through the WOA Observatory.

Dr Ernst thanked the Assembly for their comments, and summarised that there was both strong support and also a number of concerns regarding the adoption of the listing of 'infection with *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1*'. He proposed that the Assembly vote on the listing, and if the listing were adopted WOA would work with those Members that had expressed concerns to continue to address the issues that they had raised.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption

The revised text was adopted with four objections (Brazil, Canada, Thailand, and the United States of America) and 21 abstentions (Argentina, Belize, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Israel, Korea (Rep. of), Nicaragua, Mexico, Panama, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Uruguay and Zimbabwe).

165. **Article 8.X.3. of Chapters 8.1., 8.2., and 8.3. in Section 8. 'Diseases of Amphibians'**

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that amendments were proposed to Article 8.X.3. 'Importation or transit of aquatic animal products for any purpose regardless of the infection with [Pathogen X] status of the exporting country, zone or compartment' of Chapters 8.1., 8.2. and 8.3. in Section 8. 'Diseases of Amphibians'. He noted that the proposed amendments were to align with the revised approach to time/temperature treatments for safe commodities that had been implemented in relevant articles of all disease-specific chapters.

Dr Ernst specified that the amended texts proposed were in Article 8.1.3. of Chapter 8.1 'Infection with *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*', Article 8.2.3. of Chapter 8.2. 'Infection with *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*' and Article 8.3.3. of Chapter 8.3. 'Infection with *Ranavirus* species' (as per Annexes 9 to 11 of 91 GS/Tech-06).

Dr Ernst noted that the revised texts had been circulated four times.

Dr Ernst presented the revised texts to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised texts to the Assembly for adoption

The revised texts were adopted unanimously.

166. Article 9.X.3. of Chapter 9.3., 9.4., 9.6., 9.7. and 9.8. in Section 9. 'Diseases of Crustaceans'

Dr Ernst explained that amendments were proposed to Article 9.X.3. 'Importation or transit of aquatic animal products for any purpose regardless of the infection with [Pathogen X] status of the exporting country, zone or compartment' of Chapters 9.3., 9.4., 9.6., 9.7. and 9.8. in Section 9. 'Diseases of Crustaceans'. He noted that the proposed amendments were to align with the revised approach to time/temperature treatments for safe commodities that had been implemented in relevant articles of all disease-specific chapters.

Dr Ernst specified that the amended texts proposed were in Article 9.3.3. of Chapter 9.3 'Infection with decapod iridescent virus 1', Article 9.4.3. of Chapter 9.4. 'Infection with *Hepatobacter penaei* (Necrotising hepatopancreatitis)', Article 9.6.3. of Chapter 9.6. 'Infection with infectious myonecrosis virus', Article 9.7.3. of Chapter 9.7. 'Infection with *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* nodavirus' and Article 9.8.3. of Chapter 9.8. 'Infection with Taura syndrome virus' (as per Annexes 12 to 16 of 91 GS/Tech-06).

Dr Ernst noted that the revised texts had been circulated three times.

Dr Ernst presented the revised texts to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised texts to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised texts were adopted unanimously.

167. Article 10.X.3. of Chapters 10.1., 10.2., 10.3., 10.4., 10.5., 10.6., 10.7., 10.8., 10.9., 10.10. and 10.11. in Section 10. 'Diseases of Fish'

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the amendments were proposed to Article 10.X.3. 'Importation or transit of aquatic animal products for any purpose regardless of the infection with [Pathogen X] status of the exporting country, zone or compartment' of Chapters 10.1., 10.2., 10.3., 10.4., 10.5., 10.6., 10.7., 10.8., 10.9., 10.10. and 10.11. in Section 10. 'Diseases of Fish'. He noted that the proposed amendments were to align with the revised approach to time/temperature treatments for safe commodities that had been implemented in relevant articles of all disease-specific chapters.

Dr Ernst specified that the amended texts proposed were in Article 10.1.3. of Chapter 10.1. 'Infection with epizootic haematopoietic necrosis virus', Article 10.2.3. of Chapter 10.2. 'Infection with *Aphanomyces invadans* (Epizootic ulcerative syndrome)', Article 10.3.3. of Chapter 10.3. 'Infection with *Gyrodactylus salaris*', Article 10.4.3. of Chapter 10.4. 'Infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus', Article 10.5.3. of Chapter 10.5. 'Infection with salmonid alphavirus', Article 10.6.3. of Chapter 10.6. 'Infection with infectious haematopoietic necrosis virus', Article 10.7.3. of Chapter 10.7. 'Infection with koi herpesvirus', Article 10.8.3. of Chapter 10.8. 'Infection with red sea bream iridovirus', Article 10.9.3. of Chapter 10.9. 'Infection with spring viraemia of carp virus', Article 10.10.3. of Chapter 10.10. 'Infection with viral haemorrhagic septicaemia virus' and Article 10.11.3. of Chapter 10.11. 'Infection with tilapia lake virus' (as per Annexes 17 to 27 of 91 GS/Tech-06).

Dr Ernst noted that the revised texts for Articles 10.1.3. to 10.10.3. had been circulated three times, and the revised text for Article 10.11.3. had been circulated twice.

Dr Ernst presented the revised texts to the Assembly.

Thailand requested clarification of an inconsistency in the Aquatic Animals Commission's February 2024 report. Thailand noted that Article 10.3.3. of Chapter 10.3. 'Infection with *Gyrodactylus salaris*' contained a proposed addition to points 5 and 6 which was not consistent with the clarification in the report text. As a result, Thailand requested that the proposal of adding 'for a continuous period of at least 14 days' at the end of points 5 and 6 of Article 10.3.3. be reconsidered.

Thailand reaffirmed its position presented at the 2023 WOAHA General Session regarding Article 10.11.3. of Chapter 10.11. 'Infection with tilapia lake virus'. Thailand emphasised that the recommended time/temperature treatment proposed for the inactivation of tilapia lake virus (TiLV) in the proposed text was based on scientific literature to produce inactivated virus for vaccine development. Thailand stated that this treatment may not be appropriate at the industrial level for the processing of commercial aquatic animal products intended for trade. Therefore, Thailand requested that new and available scientific literature be provided for recommending time/temperature treatments of TiLV, and proposed that points 1 and 2 of Article 10.11.3. of Chapter 10.11. 'Infection with tilapia lake virus' remain 'under study'.

Korea (Rep. of) requested that a second time/temperature treatment (90°C for 1 minute) be added to points 1 and 2 of Article 10.10.3. of Chapter 10.10. 'Infection with viral haemorrhagic septicaemia virus', as it is supported by scientific evidence and included in the 2023 'Safe commodity assessments for WOAHA listed aquatic animal diseases'.

In response to Thailand's intervention about Article 10.3.3. of Chapter 10.3. 'Infection with *Gyrodactylus salaris*', Dr Ernst thanked Thailand for bringing this inconsistency to his attention. He noted that there was an oversight in the Commission's February 2024 report text as it did not reflect the changes being proposed to points 5 and 6. He specified that initially the Commission had not thought that the addition of the time period to Article 10.3.3. was required, as the parasite would be unlikely to survive on an aquatic animal product after being harvested. However, the Commission then agreed that the change was necessary as pathway control should not be part of the consideration for a safe commodity. He added that products that were safe for human consumption that required specific pathway controls could be added to Article 10.3.14., where this would be more appropriate.

In response to Thailand's intervention about Article 10.11.3. of Chapter 10.11. 'Infection with tilapia lake virus', Dr Ernst noted that there was limited information for thermal inactivation of aquatic pathogens. He explained that because of the limited information, including for tilapia lake virus, the 2023 assessments had been limited by the available scientific information. He added that it was difficult for the Commission to provide alternatives if information was lacking and that this could result in less-than-ideal proposals. He encouraged further research to improve the guidance on safe commodities.

Dr Ernst, in response to Korea (Rep. of), noted that the proposal for a safe commodity did not provide guidance for specific manufacturing processes and the Commission had chosen the time/temperature treatment expected to be the lowest thermal treatment. He added that, in February 2024, the Commission had made a matrix of all available time/temperature combinations for the inactivation of listed pathogens and found that there were only a few cases with more than one time/temperature treatment. The Commission had chosen to remain with the lowest thermal treatment available. He re-iterated the need for additional scientific data to provide better guidance and that ideally a time/temperature inactivation curve would be established for each pathogen of concern.

South Africa, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the WOAHA Africa region, expressed concern about the control and spread of *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1* in their region. They questioned whether the time/temperature treatment for the red sea bream iridovirus (RSIV) genogroup in Article 10.8.3. of Chapter 10.8. 'Infection with red sea bream iridovirus' would be applied to *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1*.

In response to South Africa, Dr Ernst, noted that Chapter 10.8. 'Infection with red sea bream iridovirus' would need to be revised if the listing of 'Infection with *Megalocytivirus pagrus 1*' were adopted, which would address the concern raised. He added that the safe commodity treatments would likely be very similar or the same as for RSIV genogroup, as supported by evidence. He also noted that there were considerable research efforts ongoing for Megalocytiviruses, which would further broaden the scientific data available for these viruses.

In reply, Thailand, noted that it would support the adoption of Article 10.3.3. of Chapter 10.3. 'Infection with *Gyrodactylus salaris*' as presented; however, it reiterated its request that points 1 and 2 of Article 10.11.3. of Chapter 10.11. 'Infection with tilapia lake virus' remain 'under study'.

Dr Ernst, in response to Thailand, re-iterated that, with the currently available data, he could not agree to its proposal.

The President presented the revised texts to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised texts were adopted, with one objection (Thailand).

168. **Article 11.X.3. of Chapters 11.1., 11.2., 11.3., 11.4., 11.5., 11.6. and 11.7. of Section 11. 'Diseases of Molluscs'**

Dr Ernst explained that amendments were proposed to Article 11.X.3. 'Importation or transit of aquatic animal products for any purpose regardless of the infection with [Pathogen X] status of the exporting country, zone or compartment' of Chapters 11.1., 11.2., 11.3., 11.4., 11.5., 11.6. and 11.7. in Section 10. 'Diseases of Molluscs'. He noted that the proposed amendments were to align with the revised approach to time/temperature treatments for safe commodities that had been implemented in relevant articles of all disease-specific chapters.

Dr Ernst specified that the amended texts were in Article 11.1.3. of Chapter 11.1. 'Infection with abalone herpesvirus', Article 11.2.3. of Chapter 11.2. 'Infection with *Bonamia exitiosa*', Article 11.3.3. of Chapter 11.3. 'Infection with *Bonamia ostreae*', Article 11.4.3. of Chapter 11.4. 'Infection with *Marteilia refringens*', Article 11.5.3. of Chapter 11.5. 'Infection with *Perkinsus marinus*', Article 11.6.3. of Chapter 11.6. 'Infection with *Perkinsus olseni*' and Article 11.7.3. of Chapter 11.7. 'Infection with *Xenohaliotis californiensis*' (as per Annexes 28 to 34 of 91 GS/Tech-06).

Dr Ernst noted that the revised texts had been circulated four times.

Dr Ernst presented the revised texts to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised texts to the Assembly for adoption

The revised texts were adopted unanimously.

169. **Model Articles X.X.5. and X.X.6. for disease-specific chapters**

Dr Ernst reported that model Articles X.X.5. 'Country free from infection with [Pathogen X]' and X.X.6. 'Zone free from infection with [Pathogen X]' had been amended to better describe the actions that should be achieved prior to declaring a new free zone outside infected and protection zones and to ensure consistency between relevant articles for country and zone freedom in all disease-specific chapters of the *Aquatic Code* (as per Annex 35 of 91 GS/Tech-06). Dr Ernst explained that, if adopted, Articles X.X.5 and X.X.6. of all disease-specific chapters would be amended accordingly.

Dr Ernst noted that the revised text had been circulated twice.

Dr Ernst presented the revised texts to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised texts to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised texts were adopted unanimously.

170. Article 9.3.2. of Chapter 9.3. 'Infection with decapod iridescent virus 1'

Dr Ernst explained that the list of susceptible species in Article 9.3.2. of Chapter 9.3. 'Infection with decapod iridescent virus 1' had been amended in line with recommendations proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of Crustacean Species to WOAHL Listed Diseases (as per Annex 36 of 91 GS/Tech-06). Dr Ernst emphasised that the *ad hoc* Group had re-assessed two species, *Penaeus chinensis* and *Macrobrachium rosenbergii*, and the results of these assessments were detailed in the Aquatic Animals Commission February 2024 report.

Dr Ernst noted that the revised text had been circulated twice.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Thailand commented that the updated assessment of *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* in the Commission's February 2024 report showed different scores for susceptibility based on two references. Thailand indicated that the apparently contradictory results should preclude *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* from being listed as a susceptible species and requested that *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* be put under study to evaluate further evidence.

Dr Ernst thanked Thailand for its comment and noted that in the process of assessing susceptible species it is normal to have studies that receive different scores. He underscored that the approach to determine susceptibility was rigorous and followed the criteria as outlined in Chapter 1.5. of the *Aquatic Code* to determine susceptibility. Dr Ernst noted that the Commission had requested the *ad hoc* Group to reassess this species in February 2024 and its assessment outcome had remained the same. Dr Ernst suggested that the article be proposed for adoption and the Commission would request that the *ad hoc* Group assess if there was any new evidence on the susceptibility of *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* to infection with decapod iridescent virus 1 that may warrant further consideration.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

171. Article 10.6.2. of Chapter 10.6. 'Infection with infectious haematopoietic necrosis virus'

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Aquatic Animals Commission proposed that the list of susceptible species in Article 10.6.2. of Chapter 10.6. 'Infection with infectious haematopoietic necrosis virus' be presented in a table format to align with the convention used in Article X.X.2. of the *Aquatic Code* (as per Annex 37 of 91 GS/Tech-06).

Dr Ernst reported that the revised text had been circulated twice.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

172. **Article 10.11.2. of Chapter 10.11. 'Infection with tilapia lake virus'**

Dr Ernst reported that the list of susceptible species in Article 10.11.2. of Chapter 10.11. 'Infection with tilapia lake virus' had been amended, in line with recommendations proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of Fish Species to WOAHL Listed Diseases (as per Annex 38 of 91 GS/Tech-06).

Dr Ernst noted that the revised text had been circulated twice.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

173. **Article 11.5.1. and 11.5.2. of Chapter 11.5. 'Infection with *Perkinsus marinus*'**

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Aquatic Animals Commission proposed amendments to Article 11.5.1. of Chapter 11.5. 'Infection with *Perkinsus marinus*' to ensure consistency with other mollusc disease-specific chapters.

Dr Ernst explained that the list of susceptible species in Article 11.5.2. had been amended, in line with recommendations proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of Mollusc Species to WOAHL Listed Diseases (as per Annex 39 of 91 GS/Tech-06).

Dr Ernst noted that the revised text had been circulated three times.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals

174. **Text proposed for adoption**

Dr Ernst indicated that the next part of his presentation would focus on presenting the revised texts of the *Aquatic Manual* that were to be proposed for adoption.

Dr Ernst noted that, in 2019, the Aquatic Animals Commission had commenced the process of progressively reformatting the disease-specific chapters of the *Aquatic Manual* into a new template. He explained that, including the chapters proposed for adoption at this General Session, all crustacean disease-specific chapters had now been revised using the new template. He noted that all fish disease-specific chapters had been revised and adopted, and that the revision of the mollusc disease-specific chapters was underway.

Finland, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, confirmed that the EU supported the adoption of all the proposed *Aquatic Manual* annexes.

175. **Chapter 2.2.0. 'General information (diseases of crustaceans)'**

Dr Ernst reported that Chapter 2.2.0. 'General information (diseases of crustaceans)' had been comprehensively revised to update scientific information (as per Annex 51 of 91 GS/Tech-06). He stated that the Aquatic Animals Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOAHL Reference Laboratory experts for diseases of crustaceans.

Dr Ernst noted that the revised text had been circulated four times for comment.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

176. Chapter 2.2.2. 'Infection with *Aphanomyces astaci* (crayfish plague)'

Dr Ernst reported that Chapter 2.2.2. 'Infection with *Aphanomyces astaci* (crayfish plague)' had been comprehensively revised to update scientific information and reformatted to align with the new disease chapter template (as per Annex 52 of 91 GS/Tech-06). He stated that the Aquatic Animals Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOAHA Reference Laboratory expert for Infection with *Aphanomyces astaci* (crayfish plague).

Dr Ernst noted that the revised text had been circulated four times for comment.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

China (People's Rep. of) did not agree with the listing of the Chinese mitten crab (*Eriocheir sinensis*) as a susceptible species to infection with *Aphanomyces astaci* (crayfish plague), due to a lack of scientific evidence. The available evidence pointed to the likelihood that the mitten crab was a vector of this disease.

Dr Ernst replied that the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of Crustacean Species to Infection with WOAHA Listed Diseases had not yet assessed crayfish plague, but he indicated that this concern would be addressed in the near future as this disease was scheduled to be assessed by the *ad hoc* Group.

The revised text was adopted with one abstention (China [People's Rep. of]).

177. Chapter 2.2.6. 'Infection with *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* nodavirus (white tail disease)'

Dr Ernst reported that Chapter 2.2.6. 'Infection with *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* nodavirus (white tail disease)' had been comprehensively revised to update scientific information and reformatted to align with the new disease chapter template (as per Annex 53 of 91 GS/Tech-06). He stated that the Aquatic Animals Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOAHA Reference Laboratory expert for Infection with *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* nodavirus (white tail disease).

Dr Ernst proposed some amendments to correct some omissions from PCR methods.

In Table 4.4.1.1. 'Real-time RT-PCR: primer sequences and cycling parameters', for method 1, add "Reverse transcription at 37°C/60 min; 1 cycle 95°C/10 min" to the cycling parameters. For methods 2 and 3, change the cycling parameters to "Reverse transcription at 42°C/60 min, 70°C/5 min; 1 cycle 95°C/10 min; 50 cycles of 4°C/30 sec, 58°C/30 sec, 72°C/30 sec"; and delete the table footnote: "(a)A denaturation step prior to cycling has not been included."

In Table 4.4.2.1. 'Conventional RT-PCR: primer sequences and cycling parameters', for methods 1 and 3, add "Reverse transcription at 52°C/30 min; 1 cycle 95°C/2 min" to the cycling parameters. For method 2, add "First step as for method 1" in the cycling parameters; and delete the table footnote: "(a)A denaturation step prior to cycling has not been included."

Dr Ernst noted that the revised text had been circulated three times for comment.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

178. Chapter 2.2.9. 'Infection with yellow head virus genotype 1'

Dr Ernst reported that Chapter 2.2.9. 'Infection with yellow head virus genotype 1' had been comprehensively revised to update scientific information and reformatted to align with the new disease chapter template (as per Annex 54 of *91 GS/Tech-06*). He stated that the Aquatic Animals Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOAHA Reference Laboratory expert for 'Infection with yellow head virus genotype 1'.

Dr Ernst proposed some amendments to correct some omissions from the RT-PCR methods.

In Table 4.4.1.1. 'Real-time RT-PCR: primer sequences and cycling parameters', delete the footnote: "(a)A denaturation step prior to cycling has not been included."

In Table 4.4.2.1. 'Conventional RT-PCR: primer sequences and cycling parameters', add "Reverse transcription at 50°C/30 min and 94°C/2 min" to the cycling parameters for all three methods. For method 2, add "35 cycles of 95°C/30 sec, 66°C/30 sec and 72°C/45 sec" in the cycling parameters for the nested step; and delete the table footnote: "(a)A denaturation step prior to cycling has not been included."

Dr Ernst noted that the revised text had been circulated three times for comment.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

179. Chapter 2.2.X. 'Infection with decapod iridescent virus 1 (DIV1)'

Dr Ernst reported that a new Chapter 2.2.X. 'Infection with decapod iridescent virus 1 (DIV1)' had been developed and had been formatted to align with the new disease chapter template (as per Annex 55 of *91 GS/Tech-06*). He stated that the Aquatic Animals Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOAHA Reference Laboratory expert for Infection with decapod iridescent virus 1 (DIV1).

Dr Ernst noted that the new chapter had been circulated twice for comment.

Dr Ernst presented the new chapter to the Assembly.

The President presented the new chapter to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

180. Chapter 2.4.0. 'General information: diseases of molluscs'

Dr Ernst reported that Chapter 2.4.0. 'General information: diseases of molluscs' had been comprehensively revised to update scientific information (as per Annex 56 of *91 GS/Tech-06*). He stated that the Aquatic Animals Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOAHA Reference Laboratory expert for diseases of molluscs.

Dr Ernst noted that the revised text had been circulated twice for comment.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

181. Chapter 2.4.1. 'Infection with abalone herpesvirus'

Dr Ernst reported that Chapter 2.4.1. 'Infection with abalone herpesvirus' had been comprehensively revised to update scientific information and reformatted to align with the new disease chapter template (as per Annex 57 of 91 GS/Tech-06). He stated that the Aquatic Animals Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOAHA Reference Laboratory expert for Infection with abalone herpesvirus.

Dr Ernst noted that the revised text had been circulated twice for comment.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

182. Chapter 2.4.4. 'Infection with *Marteilia refringens*'

Dr Ernst reported that Chapter 2.4.4. 'Infection with *Marteilia refringens*' had been comprehensively revised to update scientific information and reformatted to align with the new disease chapter template (as per Annex 58 of 91 GS/Tech-06). He stated that the Aquatic Animals Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOAHA Reference Laboratory expert for Infection with *Marteilia refringens*.

Dr Ernst noted that the revised text had been circulated twice for comment.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

183. Sections 2.2.1. and 2.2.2. of Chapter 2.4.5. 'Infection with *Perkinsus marinus*'

Dr Ernst explained that the list of susceptible species in Sections 2.2.1. and 2.2.2. of Chapter 2.4.5. 'Infection with *Perkinsus marinus*' had been amended, in line with recommendations proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of Mollusc Species to WOAHA Listed Diseases (as per Annex 59 of 91 GS/Tech-06).

Dr Ernst noted that the revised text had been circulated three times for comment.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

184. Reference Centres

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Aquatic Animals Commission had approved the application from the Central Laboratory for Aquaculture Research (CLAR) in Sharkia, Egypt, as a new WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Fish Health Management in the Middle East Region.

Dr Ernst noted that the Commission had also approved the application from 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], Republic of Korea) as a new WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Reference Materials of Molecular Diagnostic Techniques in Aquatic and Terrestrial Animal Diseases.

185. Texts circulated for Member comments

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that 12 annexes had been circulated for comment in the Aquatic Animals Commission's February 2024 report for new or revised texts for the *Aquatic Code* and the *Aquatic Manual*.

Dr Ernst encouraged Members, as well as international organisations having a cooperation agreement with WOAHA, to participate in the WOAHA standard-setting process through the submission of written comments. He reminded the Assembly that comments had to be received before the deadline of 5 July 2024 to be considered by the Commission at its September 2024 meeting.

186. Work plan

In closing, Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that at each of its meetings the Aquatic Animals Commission reviewed and updated its work plan, taking into account Member and partner comments, Headquarters' comments and completed work. Dr Ernst reminded the Assembly that the work plan provided Members with an overview of current and upcoming activities and encouraged Members to provide feedback on the work plan.

187. The Assembly noted the report of the Aquatic Animals Commission.

Thursday, 30 May 2024

Third Plenary Session

Activities of the Specialist Commissions (cont.)

Biological Standards Commission ([91 GS/Tech-07](#))

188. Prof. Emmanuel Couacy-Hymann, President of the Biological Standards Commission, reported on the work of the Commission since the previous General Session. The Commission had met twice: from [4 to 8 September 2023](#) and from [5 to 9 February 2024](#).
189. Prof. Couacy-Hymann thanked the other Members of the Commission. Appreciation was expressed for the contribution of the other regular participant, Dr Steven Edwards, Consultant Editor of the *Terrestrial Manual*, as well as specialist contributions by WOAHA experts from Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, and others. Prof. Couacy-Hymann took the opportunity to thank Dr Edwards for the enormous contribution he had made to WOAHA, the Biological Standards Commission and the *Terrestrial Manual* over the past 35 or so years. He emphasised that, during this time, Dr Edwards had contributed enthusiastically to the activities of

the Commission, and had also helped to raise awareness of a wide range of issues related to animal disease control and prevention among the network of WOA Reference Centres. His input and professional courtesy and cooperation would be remembered with appreciation. Lastly, Prof. Couacy-Hymann commended the staff of the Science Department and the Antimicrobial Resistance and Veterinary Products Department at WOA Headquarters for supporting the work of the Commission.

190. Prof. Couacy-Hymann reminded the Assembly that the second round of commenting had given Members the opportunity to review the version of the *Terrestrial Manual* chapters that would be proposed for adoption. He explained that while Members' approval was being sought, any comments should be either editorial, which would be taken into account as silent changes and not detailed in the resolution, or essential, fundamental corrections/amendments that absolutely needed to be made before the chapter could be adopted and published. Any other, non-essential comments would be kept on file and addressed when the chapter was next updated.

Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals

191. Prof. Couacy-Hymann informed Delegates that, in March 2024, 13 chapters from the *Terrestrial Manual* that had been reviewed and approved by the Biological Standards Commission for circulation to Members were made available as annexes to the February 2024 report, which could be found both on the Delegates' website and on the Commission's webpage of the WOA public website, for consultation. He also pointed out that the revised chapters to be proposed for adoption were also presented in *91 GS/Tech-07*. Following comments received in the second round, the chapter on African swine fever had been withdrawn and would not be proposed for adoption at this General Session (see below).

192. Texts proposed for adoption

Prof. Couacy-Hymann indicated that the next part of his presentation would focus on presenting the revised texts of the *Terrestrial Manual* that were to be proposed for adoption.

Ireland, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, commended the Commission for its essential work and its continued efforts to update the *Terrestrial Manual*. The EU thanked the Commission for having taken into account most of its previous comments. The EU in particular thanked the Commission for the hard work on the ASF chapter's vaccine section and conveyed its full support for the decision to postpone its adoption so that the numerous comments that have recently been submitted can be taken into account. The EU also thanked the Commission for addressing its comment on the bovine viral diarrhoea chapter and accepted the outcome of that review. Finally, the EU fully supported the adoption of all the revised *Terrestrial Manual* chapters proposed for adoption.

193. Chapter 1.1.5. 'Quality management in veterinary testing laboratories'

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 1.1.5. 'Quality management in veterinary testing laboratories' had been extensively revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOA Collaborating Centre for Diagnostic Test Validation Science in the Asia and the Pacific region.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann explained that in the commenting period before the General Session, in Section A.3. 'Accreditation' New Zealand had proposed replacing point xiv): "Has demonstrable competence to generate technically valid results" with "Effective risk identification and management system".

Prof. Couacy-Hymann agreed to this change and presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

194. **Chapter 1.1.9. ‘Tests for sterility and freedom from contamination of biological materials intended for veterinary use’**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 1.1.9. ‘Tests for sterility and freedom from contamination of biological materials intended for veterinary use’ had been extensively revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAH Collaborating Centre for Diagnostic Test Validation Science in the Asia and the Pacific Region.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann explained that in the commenting period before the General Session, the United Kingdom had proposed adding two microorganisms to Table 2 ‘Some American Type Culture Collection strains with their respective medium and incubation conditions’, as follows, to align with the European Pharmacopoeia:

Medium	Test microorganism	Incubation	
		Temperature (°C)	Conditions
<u>Potato dextrose agar</u>	<u><i>Aspergillus brasiliensis</i> ATCC #16404</u>	<u>20–25</u>	<u>Aerobic</u>
<u>Nutrient agar, nutrient broth</u>	<u><i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> ATCC 9027</u>	<u>30–35</u>	<u>Aerobic</u>

Also, in Section G.2.4. ‘Example of a general procedure for detection of Salmonella’, New Zealand had requested that “*Salmonella* spp.” be replaced with *Salmonella* serovars”, because the polymerase chain reactions differentiate different strains of *Salmonella* rather than just the two *Salmonella* species.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann agreed to these additions and presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

195. **Chapter 2.2.4. ‘Measurement uncertainty’**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 2.2.4. ‘Measurement uncertainty’ had been extensively revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAH Collaborating Centre for Diagnostic Test Validation Science in the Asia and the Pacific Region.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

196. **Chapter 2.2.6. ‘Selection and use of reference samples and panels’**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 2.2.6. ‘Selection and use of reference samples and panels’ had been moderately revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAH Collaborating Centre for Diagnostic Test Validation Science in the Asia and the Pacific Region.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

197. **Chapter 3.1.5. ‘Crimean–Congo haemorrhagic fever’**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.1.5. ‘Crimean–Congo haemorrhagic fever’ (CCHF) had been moderately revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Detection and Identification in Humans of Emerging Animal Pathogens and Development of Tools for their Diagnoses.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

198. **Chapter 3.3.6. ‘Avian tuberculosis’ (tuberculin section only)**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that, following application of the criteria for keeping chapters on non-listed diseases, Chapter 3.3.6. ‘Avian tuberculosis’ had been identified for removal from the *Terrestrial Manual*, but that the section on avian tuberculin would be proposed for adoption, and, once adopted, moved to Chapter 3.1.13. ‘Mammalian tuberculosis (infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex)’.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

199. **Chapter 3.4.1. ‘Bovine anaplasmosis’**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.4.1. ‘Bovine anaplasmosis’ had been extensively revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOAHA Reference Laboratory expert for anaplasmosis and another anaplasmosis expert.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that in the commenting period before the General Session, in Section A. ‘Introduction’, the United States of America had proposed adding “*A. centrale*” to the sentence: “The genus *Anaplasma* contains *Anaplasma marginale* as the type species, *A. centrale*, *A. phagocytophilum* the agent of human granulocytic ehrlichiosis (formerly *Ehrlichia phagocytophila* and *E. equi*), *A. platys*, and *A. bovis* (formerly *E. bovis*).”, because *A. centrale* was included in other listings of the *Anaplasma* species in this Section but had been left out here.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann agreed to this addition.

Australia thanked the Commission for its work on this chapter but requested that two errors be addressed prior to the chapter’s adoption: that the taxonomy be corrected as *Anaplasma* does not belong to the family Anaplasmataceae but rather to the family Ehrlichiaceae. The change of ‘family’ was made within the taxonomic database LPSN (List of Prokaryotic names with Standing in Nomenclature), which is an authoritative source for prokaryotic nomenclature. Secondly Appendix 6 details diagnostic testing options for determining the immune status of individual animals relating to bovine viral diarrhoea virus rather than bovine anaplasmosis.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann informed the Assembly that, in Appendix 6, the justification table for the scores given to the tests in Table 1 for the purpose ‘immune status of individual animals’ had been incorrectly appended to the chapter. This error had been corrected.

Regarding the comment from Australia on taxonomy, Prof. Couacy-Hymann asked that the chapter be adopted and that the comment be reviewed in consultation with the experts. Should the experts agree, the chapter would be revised again in the 2024/2025 review cycle.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

200. **Chapter 3.4.7. 'Bovine viral diarrhoea'**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.4.7. 'Bovine viral diarrhoea' had been moderately revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOAHP Reference Laboratory experts for bovine viral diarrhoea.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

201. **Chapter 3.4.12. 'Lumpy skin disease' (vaccine section only)**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.4.12. 'Lumpy skin disease' (vaccine section only) had been extensively revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOAHP Reference Laboratory experts for lumpy skin disease.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

202. **Chapter 3.6.9. 'Equine rhinopneumonitis (infection with Varicellovirus equidalpha1)'**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.6.9. 'Equine rhinopneumonitis (infection with Varicellovirus equidalpha1' [formerly equid herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1)]) had been extensively revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAHP Reference Laboratory experts for equine rhinopneumonitis.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

203. **Chapter 3.8.1. 'Border disease'**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.8.1. 'Border disease' had been minimally revised.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

204. Chapter 3.8.12. ‘Sheep pox and goat pox’ (diagnostic test section only)

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.8.12. ‘Sheep pox and goat pox’ (diagnostic test section only) had been moderately revised. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOA Reference Laboratory experts for sheep pox and goat pox.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The President presented the revised text to the Assembly for adoption.

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

205. Chapter 3.9.1. ‘African swine fever’ (vaccine section only)

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.9.1. ‘African swine fever’ (vaccine section only) had been extensively revised. The Commission worked in close cooperation with the WOA Reference Laboratory experts for African swine fever in consultation with vaccine developers, subject matter experts, and representatives from the scientific community and regulatory authorities. Prof. Couacy-Hymann stated that the chapter had received a large volume of comments and would not be presented for adoption. An expert consultation would be organised before September 2024 to address remaining challenges, e.g. safety in non-vaccinated and non-target age groups of pigs, including pregnant sows and boars. The resulting updated chapter would be re-evaluated by the Commission at the September 2024 meeting, sent for two rounds of Member comment and proposed for adoption in May 2025.

206. Liaison with other Commissions

Prof. Couacy-Hymann stated that the Biological Standards Commission had provided advice on a number of topics requested by the Code Commission. He also noted that the Commission had held a joint meeting with the Aquatic Animals Commission to share information and explore areas of common interest and ways of working together.

207. WOA Reference Centres

Prof. Couacy-Hymann indicated that the draft Resolution relating to WOA Reference Laboratories had been presented for adoption by the Assembly following the adapted procedure before the General Session, with the results having been obtained through the electronic voting process. The Resolution on the newly designated Collaborating Centres would be presented during the Fourth Plenary Session.

During the year, a number of nominations for replacement experts had been evaluated by the Commission. Prof. Couacy-Hymann reminded the Delegates of the Commission’s expectations regarding nominees: the designated expert, responsible to WOA and its Members with regard to the disease in question, should be a leading and active researcher helping the Reference Laboratory to provide scientific and technical assistance and expert advice on topics linked to diagnosis and control of the disease for which the Reference Laboratory is responsible.

208. WOA Register of diagnostic tests

Prof. Couacy-Hymann indicated that the draft Resolution relating to the WOA Register of diagnostic tests had been presented for adoption by the Assembly following the adapted procedure before the General Session, with the results having been obtained through the electronic voting process.

The Assembly was reminded that, in agreement with the Director General, the Secretariat for Registration of Diagnostic Kits would proceed with the complete freeze on Register of Diagnostic Kits activities and all related procedures, starting after the 91st General Session, for a renewed period of 24 months, thus until May 2026.

209. Senegal, speaking on behalf of the 54 Members of the Africa Union and the WOAAH Africa region, congratulated the Commission for its excellent work. He had one concern regarding difficulties in obtaining diagnostic kits and suggested that WOAAH implement a similar approach as the one for the vaccine banks to improve Member access to diagnostic kits.
210. Botswana congratulated the Commission for its work and requested further clarification for the decision to freeze the register of kits in light of their importance in disease prevention and control. Prof. Couacy-Hymann replied that the uptake of the system by the diagnostic kit manufacturers was not as expected when initially launched and gave the floor to the Director General. Dr Eloit highlighted that after 20 years of existence, there are only 18 registered kits, indicating the system is not fit for purpose. This conclusion was confirmed by the initial study conducted by the Antimicrobial Resistance and Veterinary Products Department. Dr Eloit confirmed that the entire system will be reviewed in consultation with stakeholders.
211. The Assembly noted the Report of the Biological Standards Commission.

Adoption of Resolutions drafted during plenary sessions

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 30: Amendments to the WOAAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code

212. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 30 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 30 at the end of this report.

Results of technical resolutions adopted electronically

213. Starting before the General Session, from 24 to 27 May, WOAAH Delegates were invited to adopt some administrative and technical resolutions. A remote voting system was deployed to allow Delegates to securely cast their votes electronically. The following resolutions were proposed for adoption during this period.
214. The President certified that, since 106 Delegates had voted during the online procedure, the quorum had been reached (93 required).
215. The President divulged the results of the voting on the technical resolutions that had been proposed for adoption before the General Session.

RESO	TITLE	YES	NO	ABS	RESULTS
No. 19	91 GS/Res-19: Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members	104	0	2	ADOPTED
No. 20	91 GS/Res-20: Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Foot and Mouth Disease of Members	103	0	3	ADOPTED
No. 21	91 GS/Res-21: Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Members	105	0	1	ADOPTED
No. 22	91 GS/Res-22: Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia of Members	105	0	1	ADOPTED
No. 23	91 GS/Res-23: Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Members	104	1	1	ADOPTED
No. 24	91 GS/Res-24: Recognition of the African Horse Sickness Status of Members	106	0	0	ADOPTED
No. 25	91 GS/Res-25: Recognition of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Status of Members	105	0	1	ADOPTED
No. 26	91 GS/Res-26: Recognition of the Classical Swine Fever Status of Members	104	0	2	ADOPTED
No. 27	91 GS/Res-27: Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for dog-mediated rabies of Members	104	1	1	ADOPTED
No. 32	91 GS/Res-32: Designation of WOAAH Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animal diseases	106	0	0	ADOPTED
No. 34	91 GS/Res-34: Register of terrestrial animal diseases diagnostic kits validated and certified by WOAAH	105	0	1	ADOPTED

Distribution of animal health status certificates

216. Dr Arroyo praised the efforts deployed by those Members referred to below in disease control and eradication, and in compiling all necessary information so as to obtain an officially recognised animal health status. Dr Arroyo also noted the benefits of official animal health status recognition and disease control programme endorsement by WOAAH.
217. Five Members hereafter listed were awarded a certificate from WOAAH for their newly recognised animal health status: Azerbaijan, Czech Republic, Egypt, Liechtenstein and Norway.
218. The President congratulated Members that had been granted a new status by the Assembly.

Second Administrative Session

Director General's Report on 2023 WOAAH Activities in light of the Seventh Strategic Plan ([91 GS/Adm-05](#) and [Adm-06](#))

219. Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, Deputy Director General, Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities, explained to the Assembly that due to delays caused by technical problems during elections on Tuesday afternoon, the Director General's presentation on the 2023 activity report had been rescheduled for the start of this Second Administrative Session.
220. The Director General stated that in view of the time allocated to this administrative session, some parts of the presentation would be shortened, and she reminded Delegates that the activity report was available on line for further details.
221. The Director General presented the key points of the 2023 activity report, as described in document *91SG/Adm-05*. This work programme had been carried out within the framework of the Seventh Strategic Plan and in conjunction with 'action cards' used by each WOAAH Department and Unit to report progress.
222. She reminded Delegates that the current Strategic Plan was structured around five interdependent strategic objectives (SO). The core objectives, in place since the creation of the Organisation, were to respond to Members' needs (SO3) and to base the Organisation's work on scientific expertise (SO1). To underpin these objectives, three 'support' objectives were identified: data governance and the digitisation of processes (SO2), collaboration with partners (SO4), and modernisation of the Organisation to make it more efficient and agile (SO5). The Director General indicated that these five objectives constantly interacted and noted that the programmes of support to Members improved the quality of the information collected and the comments received, thereby enriching the work of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups.
223. For **the first Strategic Objective 'Scientific Expertise' (SO1)**, the Director General identified three elements meriting particular special attention. The Organisation's science system had been strengthened by the addition of two new Collaborating Centres, bringing the total to 72, and four new Reference Laboratories, bringing the total to 270. She indicated that WOAAH had undertaken an analysis of the structure of its science system to identify its strengths and weaknesses, thereby contributing to the revision of the Basic Texts (SO5). She also highlighted the work carried out within the framework of the Global Animal Welfare Strategy, with the revision of five chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* and a study on the implementation of standards relevant to the transport of animals by land and sea. Regional initiatives in Europe and South-East Asia had helped to strengthen capacities and collaboration in these fields, thus contributing to the objectives of responding to Members' needs (SO3) and strengthening collaboration with partners (SO4). Emergency management was also a priority, with participation in exercises with INTERPOL and FAO, and the launch of a project to build an Incident Management System, strengthening the Organisation's agility and the quality of its emergency management from a scientific perspective (SO5).

224. For the **second Strategic Objective ‘Data Governance’ (SO2)**, the Director General emphasised the progress achieved with digitalising key WOAHA services to Members. She noted that modernisation of the WAHIS platform had enabled 474 immediate notifications and 2,578 follow-up reports to be processed. Training efforts were stepped up, with 46 in-person and 65 remote sessions, thereby improving the management of notifications and reports. New information systems were also launched, including the official status management platform, the information system on the PVS (Performance of Veterinary Services) Pathway Information System and the new WOAHA Standards Online Navigation Tool. The global database on ANIMAL antimicrobial USE (ANIMUSE), launched in September 2023, saw 62% of Members report their antimicrobial use data, attracting 14,000 users. The Director General stated that these developments had helped to improve WOAHA’s efficiency and agility (SO5) while responding to Members’ needs (SO3).
225. For the **third Strategic Objective ‘Responding to Members’ needs’ (SO3)**, the Director General indicated that the PVS Pathway had regained its momentum after the interruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and that 18 PVS missions had been carried out in 2023, with the emphasis being on public–private partnerships and training of community animal health workers. She also mentioned a study by the Observatory on barriers to the implementation of zoning standards, which showed that only 27% of Members had integrated these standards and led to the formulation of recommendations aimed at achieving greater integration. The Director General emphasised that WOAHA had strengthened its procedures for submitting comments during the standard-setting process, an average of 75 Members having submitted comments on each of the texts circulated in 2023, thereby strengthening scientific expertise (SO1).
226. For the **fourth Strategic Objective ‘Collaboration with partners’ (SO4)**, the Director General noted that significant advances had been made in international relations. WOAHA had strengthened its collaborations within the Quadripartite on matters relating to One Health and GF-TADs⁴, and participated in international fora such as the G20, the G7 and the United Nations General Assembly. One Health coordination mechanisms had been established in Asia and the Pacific as well as in Africa, with the organisation of regional workshops. She pointed out that these actions had improved scientific expertise (SO1) and responded to Members’ multidisciplinary needs (SO3). The Director General also highlighted WOAHA’s increased visibility, with engagement on social media increasing by 30%, and with 320,000 followers on X (formerly Twitter) as of December 2023. She noted that WOAHA’s work had been mentioned 40 times in prime international news outlets, and four advocacy briefs had been published to express WOAHA’s position on key topics.
227. For the **fifth Strategic Objective ‘Efficiency and agility’ (SO5)**, the Director General indicated that three internal pillars had been strengthened. Financial governance had been strengthened with the revision and formalisation of the financial policy framework, including procurement, and the introduction of a new budget tool in January 2024 (SO2). Three meetings of the Audit Committee had updated the mapping of risks, and external audits of IT projects and the WAHIS project had enabled financial governance and internal processes to be improved. Revision of the Basic Texts notably focused on a consultation with external stakeholders to ensure alignment with international governance best practice. The review of more than a hundred texts and interviews with key persons contributed to the structuring of the science system (SO1) and responding to Members’ needs (SO3) in an evolving context.
228. In conclusion, the Director General reminded the Assembly that each strategic objective had been translated into operational action cards, with 166 cards having been acted upon since 2021. She noted that the majority of these actions had been completed or were already well advanced. The high number of action cards contributing to SO5 highlighted the need to modernise the Organisation and strengthen the institutional foundations to respond more effectively to Members’ needs (SO3) and strengthen WOAHA’s scientific expertise (SO1).

⁴ GF-TADs: Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases.

229. She emphasised that the first two years of implementation had been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Despite the progress achieved, some actions still needed to be completed. She proposed, with the unanimous agreement of the Council, to extend the implementation of the Seventh Strategic Plan by one year (until the end of 2026) to ensure achievement of the set objectives and optimal conditions for the changeover of Directorate General to prepare the following plan and meet new challenges.
- She stated that the proposal to extend the period for implementation of the Strategic Plan by one year would be included in Draft Resolution No. 1.
230. The Director General, at a few weeks from her departure, wished to share her personal assessment of her time in office. She stated that her years as Deputy Director General had shown her the need for a new approach on the part of the Directorate General, and had led her to work on several improvements.
231. The Director General declared that she had encouraged Members to be more closely associated with the activities and future of the Organisation through a dialogue of trust. She had restored this dialogue, transformed the Council, improved the Regional Conferences and exchanges within the Regional Core Groups and established the model for a forum during the General Session. She reminded the Assembly that all Members and partners had been consulted for the Seventh Strategic Plan, an unprecedented process.
232. She indicated that she had also aimed for greater scientific rigour, with clear procedures for evaluating experts and disease status dossiers, and with the publication of the terms of reference of *ad hoc* groups. Improvements were made to the modalities for submitting comments and several scientific networks were consolidated, even though these advances were made within a constraining legal framework, requiring a revision of the system to improve its transparency.
233. The Director General stated that she had initiated productive political and technical partnerships, revising the policy on partnerships to seek synergies and clear collaborative projects, such as the Quadripartite and the United Against Rabies platform, as well as revising agreements with CITES⁵, INTERPOL and AU-IBAR⁶, among others.
234. Regarding the internal functioning of WOA, the Director General indicated that she had encouraged a fresh impetus and openness to a wide range of talents, freeing speech within the teams and stimulating ideas. That had made it possible to propose structured strategies and maintain a dynamic dialogue with the financial partners. Improving professionalism in areas such as internal control, procurement procedures, data management, budgetary governance and the protection of personal data had strengthened the credibility and attractiveness of WOA.
235. The Director General then shared her ambitions for Organisation.
236. She voiced her ambition to see the Organisation recognised as a major international player, contributing on major global issues and involved in One Health matters, and wished to see WOA endowed with an adapted legal framework, fit for the 21st Century.
237. The Director General acknowledged that improvement had been necessary, but she emphasised that she was leaving an Organisation that was in good order, with a healthy budget and clear rules.
238. She placed particular emphasis on two crucially important dossiers for the future of the Organisation. The first was the legal recognition of its place in global sanitary governance. The investment made since 2017 positioned WOA as a key player, and was needed to maintain this high level of recognition. The second dossier was the revision of its institutional bases. This revision was essential in order to lock in the advances achieved.
239. She called on Members to ensure the proper functioning of the Organisation, and stressed the importance of their engagement.

⁵ CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna.

⁶ AU-IBAR: African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources.

240. In conclusion, the Director General thanked the staff of WOAAH, the experts, the members of the Council, the Delegates and the financial partners. She expressed her gratitude to those who had supported her and encouraged the same trust in the new Director General, Dr Emmanuelle Soubeyran. She concluded by declaring: “Have the courage to push the boundaries, and make sure the Organisation remains dynamic and evolves with the times. [...] The OIE page has been turned. It’s up to you to write the story of WOAAH.”
241. The President thanked the Director General for her presentation and opened the floor to Delegates for their comments and questions on the annual report.
242. Numerous Members, such as Japan, Poland, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, Paraguay, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, on behalf of the Quads Alliance, and Democratic Republic of the Congo, were unanimous in thanking the Director General for her leadership and her devotion. They emphasised her efforts on implementing the One Health concept and managing antimicrobial resistance, her capacity to navigate past the challenges and to improve transparency. They expressed their admiration for her passion and commitment and highlighted her inspirational role as the first woman to have managed WOAAH.
243. The Director General thanked them for their warm words, and encouraged all participants to work with the new Directorate.
244. The Assembly noted the report of the Director General.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 1
Director General’s Report on 2023 WOAAH Activities**

245. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 1 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 1 at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 2
Director General’s Report on 2023 WOAAH Management, Activities and Administrative Work**

246. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 2 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 2 at the end of this report.

Presentation and Adoption of administrative resolutions

247. Webcast streaming was resumed for the Second Administrative Session which was chaired by the President of the Assembly.
248. Further to the Director General’s presentation, Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, Deputy Director General for Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities, explained to the Assembly that the remaining structure of the Second Administrative session had been organised into three blocks following the presentation of the Activities of the Council by the President. The first block would focus on the 2023 Financial Report and related matters. Following this, the second block would focus on financial years 2024 and 2025, including activities and related budgets. Lastly, the third block would focus on the adoption of Memorandums of Understanding between WOAAH and five partners and on institutional optimisation.

Activities of the Council ([91 GS/Adm-12](#))

249. The President reported on the activities of the Council in 2023.
250. The Assembly adopted the report on the activities of the Council as presented ([91 GS/Adm-12](#)).

2023 Financial Report ([91 GS/Fin-01](#))

251. Mr Xavier Pairault, Director of Administration, reminded Delegates that the financial reports were available on the WOAAH website 60 days before the General Session.
252. Mr Pairault presented an aggregated overview of financial performance for the 97th Financial Year (2023) for the Regular Budget, the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund (World Fund) and the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations pertaining to income and expenses. He placed particular emphasis on the types of activities funded by the World Fund compared to those funded by the Regular Budget, while underscoring the interdependency of both budgets. He informed the Assembly that the 2023 Financial Report presented performance against key financial performance indicators alongside other key financial information, such as the annual financial statements and accounting information on the financial situation of the various accounts managed by WOAAH.
253. Taking into account the 2023 balance of the Regular Budget, he informed the Assembly that the Council had approved allocating €150,000 to the Reserve Fund.
254. He warmly thanked Members and resource partners for their continuous support and investment in the Organisation.
255. The President gave the floor to the Delegates for comments.
256. No comments were received on *91 SG/Fin-01*.

Auditors of the Council Report ([91 GS/Fin-02](#))

257. Dr Wilmer José Juárez Juárez (Nicaragua), on behalf of the Auditors of the Council (also comprising Dr Him Hoo Yap [Singapore]), confirmed the proper management of the WOAAH accounts.
258. The Assembly noted the report of the Auditors of the Council.

External Auditor Report ([91 GS/Fin-03](#))

259. The External Auditor appointed by WOAAH, Mr Didier Selles, presented his report and recommendations.
260. The President gave the floor to the Delegates for comments.
261. No comments were received on *91 GS/Fin-03*.
262. The President certified that the quorum had been reached, with 107 Delegates present in the room (93 being the minimum required) for the adoption of Draft Resolutions No. 14 and 13.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 14 2023 Financial Report (1 January to 31 December 2023)

263. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 14 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 14 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 13 Acknowledgements to the Members and Partners that made Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies to WOAAH, or contributed to the Organisation of WOAAH Meetings and the Provision of Personnel

264. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 13 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 13 at the end of this report.

Adjustments to the 2024 Budgeted Work Programme ([91 GS/Fin-04](#))

265. Mr Pairault outlined the principal programmatic highlights resulting in adjustments to the 2024 Work Programme. He presented an aggregated overview of income and budgeted expenses for the Regular Budget, the World Fund and the Regional and Sub-Regional Representation budgets in 2024. He reminded the Assembly that only the Regular Budget was being submitted for adoption by Delegates.
266. The President gave the floor to the Delegates for comments.
267. No comments were received on *91 GS/Fin-04*.
268. The President certified that the quorum had been reached, as 93 Delegates were present in the room (93 being the minimum required) for the adoption of Draft Resolution No. 15.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 15 Modification of the 2024 Regular Budget (1 January to 31 December 2024)

269. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 15 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted (92 votes in favour and 1 abstention). The text appears under Resolution No. 15 at the end of this report.

2025 Budgeted Work Programme, Income Estimates and Related Contribution Scale ([91 GS/Fin-05](#))

270. Mr Pairault presented an aggregated overview of income and budgeted expenses for the 2025 Budget, comprising the Regular Budget, the World Fund and the Regional and Sub-Regional Representation budgets. He informed the Members that this budget had been developed based on a structured budgetary dialogue and he outlined the principal budgetary assumptions. He signalled to the Assembly that the 2025 Budgeted Work Programme included almost 60 output indicators per budgetary chapter to demonstrate to Members the tangible return on investment.
271. He reminded the Assembly that only the Regular Budget was being submitted for adoption by Delegates and provided them with the Regular Budget 2025 Budget Estimates.
272. He presented the Proposed 2025 Contributions Scale to the Assembly, noting that it took into account the OECD Total Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 6.9% of the previous year in application of Resolution N. 15 of 24 May 2018.
273. The President gave the floor to the Delegates for comments.
274. The Delegate of the Democratic Republic of Congo queried whether a balanced budget signified that income was equal to expenses.
275. The Director of Administration confirmed that the Regular Budget was a balanced budget and reminded the Assembly that Delegates are requested to solely vote on the Regular Budget. He clarified that the Organisation's Regular Budget is based on the theoretical estimated of statutory contributions and is aligned through the course of the year to ensure that the expenses are equal to actual income.
276. Further to a question from the Delegate of South Africa, the Director General confirmed that Resolutions No. 16 and 17 would be voted separately.
277. The President certified that the quorum had been reached, with 93 Delegates present in the room (93 being the minimum required) for the adoption of Draft Resolutions No. 16, 17 and 18.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 16
WOAH Planned Work Programme and Regular Budget Incomes and Expenses for 2025

278. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 16 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted (87 votes in favour, 0 votes against and 6 abstentions). The text appears under Resolution No. 16 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 17
Financial contributions from WOAHA Members for 2025

279. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 17 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted (72 votes in favour, 0 votes against and 21 abstentions). The text appears under Resolution No. 17 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 18
Renewal of the Appointment of the External Auditor

280. The President proposed to the Assembly to renew for a period of one year (2024) the appointment of Mr Didier Selles of the *Cour des Comptes* (French Court of auditors) as External Auditor of WOAHA Accounts to audit the 2024 accounts.

281. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 18 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 18 at the end of this report.

Memorandums of Understanding
(91 GS/Adm-07, Adm-08, Adm-09, Adm-10 and Adm-11)

282. As it was the case for some technical resolutions, WOAHA Delegates were also invited to adopt some administrative resolutions using a remote voting system.

283. The President divulged the results of the voting on the resolutions that had been proposed for adoption before the General Session. 106 Members voted (93 being the minimum required).

RESO	TITLE	YES	NO	ABS	RESULTS
No. 3	91 GS/Res-03: Memorandum of Understanding between the African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and WOAHA	104	0	2	ADOPTED
No. 4	91 GS/Res-04: Memorandum of Understanding between the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) and WOAHA	106	0	0	ADOPTED
No. 5	91 GS/Res-05: Memorandum of Understanding between the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and WOAHA	105	0	1	ADOPTED
No. 6	91 GS/Res-06: Memorandum of Understanding between the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and WOAHA	103	0	3	ADOPTED
No. 7	91 GS/Res-07: Memorandum of Understanding between The Pacific Community (SPC) and WOAHA	103	0	3	ADOPTED

284. The text appears under Resolutions No. 3-7 at the end of this report.

285. The Delegate of New Zealand noted that Australia and New Zealand strongly support the Memorandum of Understanding between the Pacific Community and WOAHA which underpins their important and ongoing partnership. She indicated that Australia and New Zealand were pleased to contribute funding, strategic and technical support to the Pacific Heads of Veterinary and Animal Production Services, or PHOVAPS, its Council, and its Secretariat, which is managed by the SPC Land Resources Division's Animal Health Unit.

She noted that the PHOVAPS Council and Membership provide an invaluable forum for strengthening ongoing engagement and progress towards the shared objectives embraced in the Memorandum of Understanding. Finally, she indicated that the collaborative support SPC and WOAHA have provided to PHOVAPS has been instrumental in successfully re-establishing the PHOVAPS network and growing its influence as a regional coordinating body for animal health, production, and biosecurity.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 8
Appointment of the Director General**

286. The President submitted the Draft Resolution No. 8 for adoption. There were no objections, abstentions, or requests to take the floor. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 8 at the end of this report. The incoming Director General, Dr Emmanuelle Soubeyran, will take up her duties on 1 August 2024.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 9
Appointment of the Council**

287. The President submitted the Draft Resolution No. 9 for adoption. There were no objections, abstentions, or requests to take the floor. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 9 at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 10
Appointment of the Bureaus of the Regional Commissions**

288. The President submitted the Draft Resolution No. 10 for adoption. There were no objections, abstentions, or requests to take the floor. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 10 at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 11
Appointment of the Specialist Commissions**

289. The President submitted the Draft Resolution No. 11 for adoption. There were no objections, abstentions, or requests to take the floor. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 11 at the end of this report.

***Analysis and evaluation of the institutional, technical and financial governance of
WOAH ([91 GS/Adm-13](#))***

290. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 12 for adoption. There were no objections, or abstentions. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 12 at the end of this report.

291. The Delegate of Belgium, on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, welcomed the start of discussions on the future of WOA. He thanked WOA for sharing the external expert report starting the discussions. He underlined that the EU fully supported WOA's upcoming work on the review of its Basic Texts making them futureproof and further increasing WOA's strategic agility and readiness for future challenges. He noted that an internal reflection on this subject had been set up in the EU since January 2024 and that the EU was eager to contribute constructively in this exercise with a working group and would be happy to see many WOA Members engaging in this.

Fourth Plenary Session

Adoption of Resolutions drafted during plenary sessions (cont.)

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 28
Amendments to the WOA Aquatic Animal Health Code**

292. The President submitted the Draft Resolution No. 28 for adoption. There were no objections, abstentions, or requests to take the floor. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 28 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 29
Amendments to the WOAHA Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals

293. The President submitted the Draft Resolution No. 29 for adoption. There were no objections, abstentions, or requests to take the floor. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 29 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 31
Amendments to the WOAHA Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals

294. The President submitted the Draft Resolution No. 31 for adoption. There were no objections, abstentions, or requests to take the floor. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 31 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 32
Designation of WOAHA Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animal diseases

295. The President submitted the Draft Resolution No. 32 for adoption. There were no objections, abstentions, or requests to take the floor. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 32 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 33
Designation of WOAHA Collaborating Centres

296. The President submitted the Draft Resolution No. 33 for adoption. There were no objections, abstentions, or requests to take the floor. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 33 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 34
Register of terrestrial animal diseases diagnostic kits validated and certified by WOAHA

297. The President submitted the Draft Resolution No. 34 for adoption. There were no objections, abstentions, or requests to take the floor. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 34 at the end of this report.

Dates of the 92nd General Session

298. The Assembly decided that the 92nd General Session of WOAHA would take place from 25 to 29 May 2025.

Closing Session

299. The President thanked the Delegates, the Rapporteurs and the other participants for the quality of the debates. He congratulated the Director General, the staff of the Headquarters and Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, the translators and the technicians for the outstanding organisation of the General Session. He invited Dr Monique Eloit to address the audience. Dr Eloit thanked the staff of WOAHA and all those who had worked with her throughout her career. She thanked her country and her family for having allowed her to build a wonderful professional experience and wished that all women could have the same opportunity and be able to express their opinions, be free to decide and choose their paths.

Finally, Dr Idoyaga invited the incoming Director General, Dr Emmanuelle Soubeyran, to say a few words to the Assembly; she thanked the President and the Assembly noting that she is looking forward to the 92nd General Session. He then concluded by thanking the interpreters and ended his address by declaring the 91st General Session closed.

300. He invited the Delegates to attend the 92nd General Session in May 2025.

.../Resolutions/Regional Commission Reports

RESOLUTIONS
adopted by the World Assembly of WOAHA Delegates
during their 91st General Session

Paris, 26-30 May 2024

List of Resolutions

Administrative Resolutions

No. 1	Approval of the Director General's Report on 2023 WOAHA Activities
No. 2	Approval of the Director General's Report on 2023 WOAHA Management, Activities and Administrative Work
No. 3	Memorandum of Understanding between the African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and the WOAHA
No. 4	Memorandum of Understanding between the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) and the WOAHA
No. 5	Memorandum of Understanding between the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the WOAHA
No. 6	Memorandum of Understanding between the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the WOAHA
No. 7	Memorandum of Understanding between The Pacific Community (SPC) and the WOAHA
No. 8	Appointment of the Director General
No. 9	Appointment of the Council
No. 10	Appointment of the Bureaus of the Regional Commissions
No. 11	Appointment of the Specialist Commissions
No. 12	Revision of the WOAHA Basic Texts

Financial Resolutions

No. 13	Acknowledgements to the Members and Partners that made Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies to WOAHA, or contributed in the Organisation of WOAHA Meetings and the Provision of Personnel
No. 14	Approval of the 2023 Financial Report (1 January - 31 December 2023)
No. 15	Modification of the 2024 Regular Budget
No. 16	WOAHA Planned Work Programme and Regular Budget Incomes and Expenses for 2025
No. 17	Financial contributions from WOAHA Members for 2025
No. 18	Renewal of the Appointment of the External Auditor

Technical Resolutions

No. 19	Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members
No. 20	Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Foot and Mouth Disease of Members
No. 21	Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Members
No. 22	Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia of Members
No. 23	Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Members

<u>No. 24</u>	Recognition of the African Horse Sickness Status of Members
<u>No. 25</u>	Recognition of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Status of Members
<u>No. 26</u>	Recognition of the Classical Swine Fever Status of Members
<u>No. 27</u>	Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for dog-mediated rabies of Members
<u>No. 28</u>	Amendments to the WOAHA Aquatic Animal Health Code
<u>No. 29</u>	Amendments to the WOAHA Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals
<u>No. 30</u>	Amendments to the WOAHA Terrestrial Animal Health Code
<u>No. 31</u>	Amendments to the WOAHA Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals
<u>No. 32</u>	Designation of WOAHA Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animal diseases
<u>No. 33</u>	Designation of WOAHA Collaborating Centres
<u>No. 34</u>	Register of terrestrial animal diseases diagnostic kits validated and certified by WOAHA
<u>No. 35</u>	Revised recommendations of the WOAHA List of Antimicrobials of Veterinary Importance

RESOLUTION No 1

Approval of the Director General's Report on 2023 WOAH Activities

In accordance with Article 6 of the Organic Rules of the Organisation,

CONSIDERING the challenges encountered as a result of various external and internal factors (in particular COVID 19) affecting the implementation of the 7th Strategic Plan

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To approve the Director General's Report on 2023 WOAH Activities (91GS Adm-05).
2. To extend the implementation of the 7th Strategic Plan by one year (until the end of 2026) to ensure that the objectives set are achieved and to provide the best possible conditions for the transition of the General Directorate to prepare the next plan.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

RESOLUTION No. 2

**Approval of the Director General's Report on 2023 WOAH Management,
Activities and Administrative Work**

In accordance with Article 6 of the Organic Rules of the Organisation,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To approve the Director General's Report on 2023 WOAH Management, Activities and Administrative Work (91 GS Adm-06).

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

RESOLUTION No. 3

Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)

CONSIDERING

The Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) signed on 28 May 2015,

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that the scope and the modalities of cooperation be redefined between WOA and AU-IBAR,

The Memorandum of Understanding between WOA and AU-IBAR (91GS Adm-07) was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 6 March 2024,

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

1. To approve the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding and its signature by the Director General on behalf of WOA.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

RESOLUTION No. 4

Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC)

CONSIDERING

The Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) signed on 26 May 2011,

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that the scope and the modalities of cooperation be redefined between WOA and CIC,

The Memorandum of Understanding between WOA and CIC (91GS Adm-08) was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 6 March 2024,

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

1. To approve the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding and its signature by the Director General on behalf of WOA.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

RESOLUTION No. 5

Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)

CONSIDERING

The Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), signed on 26 June 2012,

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that the scope and the modalities of cooperation be redefined between WOAH and IUCN,

The Memorandum of Understanding between WOAH and IUCN (91GS Adm-09) was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 6 March 2024,

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

1. To approve the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding and its signature by the Director General on behalf of WOAH.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

RESOLUTION No. 6

Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC)

CONSIDERING

The Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) signed on 23 May 2003,

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that the scope and the modalities of cooperation be redefined between WOAH and SADC,

The Memorandum of Understanding between WOAH and SADC (91GS Adm-10) was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 6 March 2024,

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

1. To approve the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding and its signature by the Director General on behalf of WOAH.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

RESOLUTION No. 7

Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the Pacific Community (SPC)

CONSIDERING

The Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the Pacific Community (SPC) signed on 16 September 1999,

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that the scope and the modalities of cooperation be redefined between WOAH and SPC,

The Memorandum of Understanding between WOAH and SPC (91GS Adm-11) was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 6 March 2024,

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

1. To approve the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding and its signature by the Director General on behalf of WOAH.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

RESOLUTION No. 8

Appointment of the Director General

HAVING REGARD TO

The Basic Texts of the Organisation, particularly article 8 of the Organic Statutes, article 11 of the Organic Rules and article 26 of the General Rules.

CONSIDERING

1. The result of the election which took place on 28 May 2024 during the 91st General Session.
2. That it is desirable that a reasonable period of time between the election and the taking of office of the Director General be observed in order to ensure a smooth transition.

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To appoint Dr Emmanuelle Soubeyran (France) as Director General of the Organisation for a period of five (5) years starting on 1 August 2024 until 31 July 2029 by mutual agreement between the outgoing Director General and the newly elected Director General.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

RESOLUTION No. 9

Appointment of the Council

HAVING REGARD TO

The Basic Texts of the Organisation, particularly Articles 8 and 50 of the General Rules, as well as Article 6 (c) of the Organic Rules.

CONSIDERING

The results of the elections which took place on 28 May 2024 during the 91st General Session.

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

1. To appoint the following Delegates as President, Vice-President, and Members of the Council for a period of three (3) years.

President
Dr Susana Guedes Pombo (Portugal)
Vice-President
Dr Fajer Al Salloom (Bahrain)
Members
Dr Roland Xolani Dlamini (Eswatini) Dr Mbargou Lo (Senegal) Dr Wilmer José Juárez Juárez (Nicaragua) Dr Mary van Andel (New Zealand) Dr Masatsugu Okita (Japan) Dr Christine Middlemiss (United Kingdom)

As per Article 8 of the General Rules, the Past President remains a member of the Council for a period of three (3) years. Therefore, Dr Hugo Idoyaga, as Past President, will remain on the Council for a period of three (3) years.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

RESOLUTION No. 10

Appointment of the Bureaus of the Regional Commissions

HAVING REGARD TO

The Basic Texts of the Organisation, particularly Articles 12, 13 and 50 of the General Rules, and Article 6 of the Terms of Reference and Internal Rules of the Regional Commissions and Regional Conferences.

CONSIDERING

The results of the elections which took place on 28 May 2024 during the 91st General Session.

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To appoint the following Delegates as President, Vice-Presidents and Secretary General of the Bureau of the relevant Regional Commission for a period of three (3) years.

Bureau of the Regional Commission for Africa
President
Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela (Congo (Dem. Rep. of the))
Vice-Presidents
Dr Anna Rose Ademun Okurut (Uganda) Dr Abderrahman El Abrak (Morocco)
Secretary General
Dr Columba Teru Vakuru (Nigeria)

Bureau of the Regional Commission for the Americas
President
Dr Rosemary Sifford (United States of America)
Vice-Presidents
Dr Rafael Enrique Rodríguez Alvarado (Honduras) Dr Carlos Orellana Vaquero (Chile)
Secretary General
Dr Roxana Alvarez (Belize)

Bureau of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific
President
Dr Baoxu Huang (China (People's Rep. of))
Vice-Presidents
Dr K. A. C. H. A. Kothalawala (Sri Lanka) Dr Akma binti Nhah Hamid (Malaysia)
Secretary General
Dr Beth Cookson (Australia)

Bureau of the Regional Commission for Europe
President
Dr Maris Balodis (Latvia)
Vice-Presidents
Dr Ulrich Herzog (Austria) Dr Vasili Basiladze (Georgia)
Secretary General
Dr Nikolche Babovski (North Macedonia)

Bureau of the Regional Commission for the Middle East
President
Dr Sanad Alharbi (Saudi Arabia)
Vice-Presidents
Dr Christodoulos Pipis (Cyprus) Dr Samah Al Sharif (Oman)
Secretary General
Dr Elias Ibrahim (Lebanon)

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)
RESOLUTION No. 11

Appointment of the Specialist Commissions

HAVING REGARD TO

The Basic Texts of the Organisation, particularly Articles 16 and 50 of the General Rules, and Article 3 of the Internal Rules, Terms of Reference of the Specialist Commissions and Qualifications of their Members.

CONSIDERING

The results of the elections which took place on 28 May 2024 during the 91st General Session.

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

1. To appoint the following candidates as President, Vice-Presidents, and Members of the relevant Specialist Commission for a period of three (3) years.

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission
President
Dr Etienne Bonbon (France)
Vice-Presidents
Dr Gastón Funes (Argentina) Dr Kiyokazu Murai (Japan)
Members
Prof. Salah Hammami (Tunisia) Dr Caroline Dubé (Canada) Dr John Stratton (Australia)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission
President
Dr Alicia Gallardo (Chile)
Vice-Presidents
Ms Fiona Geoghegan (Ireland) Dr Ingo Ernst (Australia)
Members
Dr Kevin Christison (South Africa) Prof. Hong Liu (China (People's Republic of)) Dr Saraya Tavorpanich (Norway)
Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases
President
Dr Cristobal Zepeda (United States of America)
Vice-Presidents

Dr Silvia Bellini (Italy) Prof. Naomi Cogger (New Zealand)
Members
Prof. Baptise Kimbenga Dungu (South Africa and Congo (Demo. Rep. of)) Dr Mischeck Mulumba (Zambia) Prof. Jan Arend Stegeman (Netherlands)

Biological Standards Commission
President
Prof. Emmanuel Couacy-Hymann (Côte d'Ivoire)
Vice-Presidents
Prof. Ann Cullinane (Ireland) Prof. Chris Oura (Trinidad and Tobago)
Members
Dr Satoko Kawaji (Japan) Dr Joseph O'Keefe (New Zealand) Dr Donald King (United Kingdom)

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

RESOLUTION No. 12

Revision of the WOAAH Basic Texts

CONSIDERING

1. The document 91GS Admin-13 introduces the external and independent review of the WOAAH Basic Texts titled 'Report on the analysis and evaluation of the legal framework and the institutional, technical and financial governance of the World Organisation for Animal Health'. The document includes input from Council, elected bodies, and selected delegates.
2. The insights and discussions from the Forum titled "Is WOAAH ready for the future?" held during the 91st General Session, which explored future scenarios and their implications for WOAAH's governance structures and processes, emphasizing the need for agility, resilience, and future-readiness in the revision of the Basic Texts.
3. That any revisions to the WOAAH Basic Texts will not apply retroactively.

THE ASSEMBLY, ON A PROPOSAL BY THE COUNCIL

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. WOAAH Members recognise the importance of a robust legal framework and the need to revise its Basic Texts to secure the organisation's ability to deliver its mandate efficiently, effectively, and sustainably into the future.
2. WOAAH Members recognise the 'Report on the analysis and evaluation of the legal framework and the institutional, technical and financial governance of the World Organisation for Animal Health' including the recommendations as the basis for further work to revise the Basic Texts.

DECIDES THAT

1. The Director General establish a dedicated group on governance to carry out further work to revise the WOAAH Basic Texts.
2. The Director General, in collaboration with the Council, develop Terms of Reference to provide the structure, composition, and modalities of work for the dedicated group. The group will be inclusive of the Membership with representatives from each region. The membership of the group will be approved by Council.
3. The Director General secure the necessary funds for the work of the dedicated group from within existing budgets and contribution mechanisms.
4. Following the validation of its outputs by the Council, the dedicated group on governance report to the 2025 General Session of the Assembly with the objective of providing a holistic work programme of multi-year activities and any initial recommendations (as appropriate) to support revisions to the Basic Texts.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)RESOLUTION No. 13

Acknowledgements to the Members and Partners that made Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies to WOAH, or contributed to the Organisation of WOAH Meetings and the Provision of Personnel

CONSIDERING

1. The voluntary contributions or subsidies received by WOAH in 2023 and the in-person meetings organised in 2023,

THE ASSEMBLY

REQUESTS

The Director General to sincerely thank:

1. Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Canada, China (People's Rep. of), Colombia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Korea (Rep. of), Libya, Mexico, the Netherlands (through the AMR MPTF), Oman, Qatar, Panama, Russia, Spain, Sweden (through the AMR MPTF), Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States of America;
2. The African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources, the European Union and the World Bank;
3. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Donkey Sanctuary, Four Paws, International Coalition for Working Equids, the International Horse Sports Confederation, the Open Philanthropy, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals;

for their voluntary contributions or subsidies to support WOAH in 2023.

4. Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, China (People's Rep. of), Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Ecuador, Fiji, Georgia, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea (Rep. of), Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Namibia, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Zambia and Zimbabwe;

for their contribution to the organisation of WOAH workshops that were held during 2023.

5. Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Korea (Rep. of), Norway, Panama, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States of America;

for seconding national experts to WOAH in 2023.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

RESOLUTION No. 14

Approval of the 2023 Financial Report (1 January – 31 December 2023)

CONSIDERING

1. Article 15 of the Organic Statutes of WOAAH,
2. Article 6 of the Organic Rules of WOAAH,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To approve the Financial Report for the 97th Financial Year of WOAAH (1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023) (91GS/Fin-01).
-

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

Modification of the 2024 Regular Budget

CONSIDERING

1. Article 15 of the Organic Statutes and Article 6.h of the Organic Rules of WOA, H,
2. The variation in expenses and income for the 98th Financial Year (1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024),

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To modify Resolution No. 6 of 25 May 2023 and to replace paragraphs 1.1 and 1.2 of said Resolution with the following paragraphs:

1.1. Income

Sections	Description	Amount €
Section 1	Members' contributions (Article 11 - Organic Statutes and Article 14 - Organic Rules)	14 804 000
	Extraordinary contributions	817 000
	Sub-total Section 1	15 621 000
Section 2	Registration fees (General Session, conferences)	-
	Publication sales	-
	Fees for evaluation of sanitary status applications	140 000
	World Fund overheads	1 500 000
	Internal contributions	931 000
	Other operating revenue	1 125 000
	Sub-total Section 2	3 696 000
Section 3	Investment income	100 000
	Extraordinary income	-
	Recovery of investment subsidies	32 500
	Reversal of provisions	488 000
	Sub-total Section 3	620 500
TOTAL		19 937 500

1.2. Expenses

Budgetary chapters	Amount €
1 Information Management	3 238 794
2 Standard Setting and Implementation	2 775 054
3 Capacity Building	80 353
4 Global Frameworks	835 817
5 International Collaboration	700
6 Institutional Governance	3 786 627
7 General Administration	6 052 543
8 Regional and sub-regional Representations	1 667 612
9 Depreciation and Amortisation Expenses	1 500 000
TOTAL	19 937 500

2. The income and expenses of the Regular Budget for the 98th Financial Year, corresponding to the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024, are set at € 19,937,500.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

WOAH Planned Work Programme and Regular Budget Incomes and Expenses for 2025

CONSIDERING

1. Article 15 of the Organic Statutes and Article 6.h of the Organic Rules of WOAAH,
2. The Seventh Strategic Plan of WOAAH, established for the 2021-2025 period,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To approve the Planned Work Programme for 2025 (91GS/Fin-05), subject to prioritisation by the Council to ensure that expenditure remains within the allotted budget;
2. That the budget of the Regular Budget for the 99th Financial Year, for the period from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025, shall be set at € 20,600,000 in terms of income and expenses and established as follows:

2.1. Income

Sections	Description	Amount €
Section 1	Member contributions (Article 11 - Organic Statutes and Article 14 - Organic Rules)	15 863 300
	Extraordinary contributions	569 250
	Sub-total Section 1	16 432 550
Section 2	Registration fees (General Session, conferences)	-
	Publication sales	-
	Fees for evaluating disease status dossiers	100 000
	World Fund overheads	1 500 000
	Internal contributions	835 000
	Other operating revenue	1 048 700
	Sub-total Section 2	3 483 700
Section 3	Investment income	151 250
	Extraordinary income	-
	Recovery of investment subsidies	32 500
	Reversal of provisions	500 000
	Sub-total Section 3	683 750
	TOTAL	20 600 000

2.2. Expenses

Budgetary Chapters	Amount €
1 Information Management	3 170 500
2 Standard Setting and Implementation	2 899 700
3 Capacity Building	115 300
4 Global Frameworks	978 640
5 International Collaboration	10 700
6 Institutional Governance	3 819 390
7 General Administration	6 093 660
8 Regional and Sub-Regional Representations	2 012 110
9 Depreciation and Amortisation Expenses	1 500 000
TOTAL	20 600 000

RECOMMENDS THAT

- Members provide the necessary support to allow the Planned Work Programme to be carried out, in the form of payment of both statutory contributions and, when possible, voluntary contributions to the Regular Budget and/or to the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, or any other form of support to WOAH activities.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

RESOLUTION No. 17

Financial contributions from WOAAH Members for 2025

CONSIDERING

1. Article 11 of the Organic Statutes and Article 14 of the Organic Rules of WOAAH,
2. Resolution No. 8 dated 1 June 2001 related to contributions by the Least Developed Countries (LDC),
3. Resolution No. 11 of 30 May 2014 creating two categories of extraordinary contributions,
4. Resolution No. 15 of 24 May 2018 related to taking an annual consumer price index (“OECD-Total” CPI) for the previous year into account when calculating the annual contributions of WOAAH Members for the following year,
5. The 2023 “OECD-Total” CPI that stands at 6.9% to calculate the contributions for 2025,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. That the annual statutory contribution from WOAAH Members for the 2025 Financial Year are as follows:

Category	2025 Annual Contribution (€)
1	315 375
2	252 300
3	189 225
4	126 150
5	63 075
6	37 845

2. That, in accordance with the six-category scale, WOAAH will only call for 50% of the total contributions due from the Members classified as Least Developed Countries (LDCs) by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.
3. That Members, while retaining the choice of category in which they are registered, may contribute to one of the two extraordinary categories for 2025. In this case, the concerned Members shall be exempt from their statutory contribution for the year in question.
4. The two extraordinary categories of contribution to be paid as a lump sum are as follows:

Category A: EUR 500 000 minimum

Category B: EUR 300 000 minimum

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

RESOLUTION No. 18

Renewal of the Appointment of the External Auditor

CONSIDERING

1. Article 12.1. of the Financial Regulations concerning the appointment of the External Auditor and the renewal of his mandate,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

2. To renew for an one year period the appointment of Mr Didier Selles of the *Cour des comptes* (French Court of auditors) as External Auditor of WOAHA Accounts to audit the 2024 accounts.
-

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

RESOLUTION No. 19
Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 62nd General Session, the World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) established a procedure for annually updating a List of Members and zones recognised as free from foot and mouth disease (FMD) according to the provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*,
2. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases, including FMD,
3. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Members applying for evaluation of official recognition of animal health status to meet part of the costs defrayed by WOAAH in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official animal health status evaluations had been compiled by WOAAH Headquarters for the benefit of Members,
5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the WOAAH website,
6. During the 86th General Session, the Assembly noted an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedure for official recognition of animal health status of non-contiguous territories as part of a Member already having an official animal health status. The document has been published on the WOAAH website,
7. Information published by WOAAH is derived from declarations made by the Delegates of Members. WOAAH is not responsible for the publication and maintenance of Members' or zonal animal health status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to WOAAH Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from FMD,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Members recognised as FMD-free where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Albania	El Salvador	Lesotho	Poland
Australia	Estonia	Liechtenstein	Portugal ⁴
Austria	Eswatini	Lithuania	Romania
Belarus	Finland ²	Luxembourg	San Marino
Belgium	France ³	Madagascar	Serbia ⁵
Belize	Germany	Malta	Singapore
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Greece	Mexico	Slovakia
Brunei	Guatemala	Montenegro	Slovenia
Bulgaria	Guyana	New Caledonia	Spain ⁶
Canada	Haiti	New Zealand	Suriname
Chile	Honduras	Nicaragua	Sweden
Costa Rica	Hungary	North Macedonia (Rep. of)	Switzerland
Croatia	Iceland	Norway	The Netherlands
Cuba	Ireland	Panama	Ukraine
Cyprus	Italy	Peru	United Kingdom ⁷
Czech Republic	Japan	Philippines	United States of America ⁸
Denmark ¹	Latvia		Vanuatu
Dominican Republic			

2. The Director General publish the following List of Members recognised as FMD-free where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Paraguay, Uruguay

3. The Director General publish the following List of Members having FMD-free zones⁹ where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina: one zone designated by the Delegate of Argentina in a document addressed to the Director General in January 2007;

the summer pasture zone in the Province of San Juan as designated by the Delegate of Argentina in a document addressed to the Director General in April 2011;

Patagonia Norte A as designated by the Delegate of Argentina in a document addressed to the Director General in October 2013;

Bolivia: one zone in the Macro-region of the Altiplano designated by the Delegate of Bolivia in documents addressed to the Director General in November 2011;

one zone consisting of the Department of Beni and the northern part of the Department of La Paz merged with the zone consisting of the Department of Pando (August 2018), as designated by the Delegate of Bolivia in a document addressed to the Director General in September 2022;

¹ Including Faroe Islands and Greenland.

² Including Åland Islands.

³ Including French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Réunion, Saint Pierre and Miquelon.

⁴ Including Azores and Madeira.

⁵ Excluding Kosovo administered by the United Nations.

⁶ Including Balearic Islands and Canary Islands.

⁷ Including Guernsey (incl. Alderney and Sark), Isle of Man, Jersey and Falkland Islands (Malvinas). (A dispute exists between the Government of Argentina and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) [see resolution 2065 (XX) of the General Assembly of the United Nations]).

⁸ Including American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.

⁹ For detailed information on the delimitation of zones of Members recognised as free from FMD, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of WOA.

- Botswana: four zones designated by the Delegate of Botswana in documents addressed to the Director General in August and November 2014 as follows:
- one zone consisting of Zones 3c (Dukwi), 4b, 5, 6a, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13;
 - one zone consisting of Zone 3c (Maitengwe);
 - one zone covering Zone 4a;
 - one zone covering Zone 6b;
- one zone covering Zone 3b designated by the Delegate of Botswana in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2016;
- one zone covering Zone 7 designated by the Delegate of Botswana in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2018;
- Brazil: State of Santa Catarina designated by the Delegate of Brazil in a document addressed to the Director General in February 2007;
- three zones of Brazil as designated by the Delegate of Brazil in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2020 as follows:
- State of Paraná;
 - State of Rio Grande do Sul;
 - one zone (Block 1) including the States of Acre and Rondônia and 14 municipalities in the State of Amazonas and five municipalities in the State of Mato Grosso;
- Chinese Taipei: one zone covering Taiwan, Penghu and Matsu areas, as designated by the Delegate of Chinese Taipei in a document addressed to the Director General in September 2019;
- Colombia: one zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in November 1995 and in April 1996 (Area I - Northwest region of Chocó Department);
- one zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in January 2008 (Archipelago de San Andrés and Providencia);
- Ecuador: one zone consisting of the insular territory of the Galápagos, as designated by the Delegate of Ecuador in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2014;
- Malaysia: one zone covering the provinces of Sabah and Sarawak as designated by the Delegate of Malaysia in a document addressed to the Director General in December 2003;
- Moldova: one zone designated by the Delegate of Moldova in a document addressed to the Director General in July 2008;
- Namibia: one zone designated by the Delegate of Namibia in a document addressed to the Director General in February 1997;
- Russia: one zone designated by the Delegate of Russia in documents addressed to the Director General in August 2015 and March 2016;

4. The Director General publish the following List of Members having FMD-free zones¹⁰ where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

- Argentina: two separate zones designated by the Delegate of Argentina in documents addressed to the Director General in March 2007 and October 2013, and in August 2010 and February 2014;
- Bolivia: one zone covering the regions of Chaco, Valles and parts of Amazonas and Altiplano as designated by the Delegate of Bolivia in documents addressed to the Director General in October 2013, February 2014 and August 2018;
- Brazil: one zone consisting of two merged zones designated by the Delegate of Brazil in documents addressed to the Director General in August 2010, September 2017 and September 2019, covering the States of Alagoas, Amapá, Amazonas, Bahia, Ceará, Espírito Santo, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Maranhão, Minas Gerais, Pará, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Piauí, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Norte, Roraima, São Paulo, Sergipe, Tocantins and Distrito Federal, with the exclusion of the municipalities of the States of Amazonas and Mato Grosso that are part of the zone of Block 1 (free from FMD where vaccination is not practised) as addressed to the Director General in August 2020;
- Chinese Taipei: one zone consisting of Kinmen County as designated by the Delegate of Chinese Taipei in a document addressed to the Director General in September 2017;
- Colombia: three separate zones designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in September 2019 as follows:
- Zone I (Northern border) consisting of Departments of La Guajira, Cesar and part of the Department of Norte de Santander;
 - Zone III (Trade) consisting of the Departments of Atlántico, Córdoba, Magdalena, Sucre and part of Antioquia, Bolívar and Chocó Departments;
 - Zone IV (Rest of the country), consisting of the Departments of Amazonas, Caldas, Caquetá, Cauca, Casanare, Cundinamarca, Guainía, Guaviare, Huila, Meta, Nariño, Quindío, Putumayo, Risaralda, Santander, Tolima, Valle del Cauca, Vaupés and part of Antioquia, Bolívar, Boyacá, and Chocó Departments,
- one zone consisting of two merged zones designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in September 2019 and in August 2020, which includes Zone II (Eastern border) and the former high surveillance zone covering the Departments of Arauca and Vichada and the municipality of Cubará of the Department of Boyacá;
- one zone, namely Protection Zone I (PZ I) covering 29 municipalities of the Department of Norte de Santander, as designated by the Delegate of Colombia in a document addressed to the Director General in September 2022;
- Ecuador: one zone consisting of the continental Ecuador, as designated by the Delegate of Ecuador in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2014;
- Kazakhstan: five separate zones designated by the Delegate of Kazakhstan in documents addressed to the Director General in August 2016 as follows:
- Zone 1 consisting of Almaty region;
 - Zone 2 consisting of East Kazakhstan region;
 - Zone 3 including part of Kyzylorda region, northern part of South Kazakhstan region, northern and central parts of Zhambyl region;

¹⁰ For detailed information on the delimitation of zones of Members recognised as free from FMD, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of WOA. H.

- Zone 4 including southern part of Kyzylorda region and south-western part of South Kazakhstan region;
- Zone 5 including south-eastern part of South Kazakhstan region and southern part of Zhambyl region;

Russia: two zones of Russia as designated by the Delegate of Russia in documents addressed to the Director General in August 2020 as follows:

- Zone-South including Southern and North Caucasian Federal Districts, consisting of 13 Subjects: Rostov Oblast, Stavropol Krai, Krasnodar Krai, Volgograd Oblast, Astrakhan Oblast, Republic of Kalmykia, Chechen Republic, Republic of Ingushetia, Republic of Dagestan, Kabardino-Balkarian Republic, Karachay-Cherkess Republic, Republic of North Ossetia-Alania, Republic of Adygea;
- Zone-Sakhalin consisting of the Island of Sakhalin and the Kurile Islands;

one zone of Eastern Siberia consisting of two Subjects (Republic of Tuva and Republic of Buryatia) and one Raion of the Republic of Altai (Kosh-Agachsky Raion) designated by the Delegate of Russia in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2021;

one zone, namely Zone V 'Far East' consisting of five Subjects: Amur Oblast, Jewish Autonomous Oblast, Primorsky Krai, Khabarovsk Krai, Zabaykalsky Krai, as designated by the Delegate of Russia in a document addressed to the Director General in September 2022;

Türkiye (Rep. of): one zone designated by the Delegate of Türkiye (Rep. of) in a document addressed to the Director General in November 2009.

AND

5. The Delegates of these Members shall immediately notify the WOAHA Headquarters if FMD occurs in their countries or free zones within their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Foot and Mouth Disease of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 79th General Session, the World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 19 establishing a new step in the procedure for recognising the foot and mouth disease (FMD) status of a Member, namely the endorsement by WOAHA of an official control programme for FMD being in compliance with the provisions of the chapter on FMD in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*,
2. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve endorsement of their official control programme for FMD,
3. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Members applying for endorsement of their official control programme for FMD to meet part of the costs defrayed by WOAHA in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official animal health status evaluations had been compiled by WOAHA Headquarters for the benefit of Members,
5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the WOAHA website,
6. Information published by WOAHA is derived from declarations made by the Delegates of Members. WOAHA is not responsible for the publication and maintenance of the endorsement of Members' official control programme for FMD based on inaccurate information or non-reporting to WOAHA Headquarters of significant changes in the implementation of relevant measures in the Member subsequent to the time of endorsement of the official control programme for FMD,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Members with an endorsed official control programme for FMD, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Botswana
India

Kyrgyzstan
Morocco

Namibia
Thailand

2. The Delegates of these Members shall notify WOAHA Headquarters of the occurrence of FMD, changes in the epidemiological situation and other significant events in their countries or territories in accordance with Chapter 1.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

RESOLUTION No. 21

Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 71st General Session, the World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) established a procedure for annually updating a List of Members and zones recognised as free from contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) according to the provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*,
2. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain diseases, including CBPP,
3. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Members applying for evaluation of official recognition of animal health status to meet part of the costs defrayed by WOAAH in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official animal health status evaluations had been compiled by WOAAH Headquarters for the benefit of Members,
5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the WOAAH website,
6. During the 86th General Session, the Assembly noted an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedure for official recognition of animal health status of non-contiguous territories as part of a Member already having an official animal health status. The document has been published on the WOAAH website,
7. Information published by WOAAH is derived from declarations made by the Delegates of Members. WOAAH is not responsible for the publication and maintenance of Members' or zonal animal health status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to WOAAH Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from CBPP,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Members recognised as CBPP-free according to the provisions of Chapter 11.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina	Ecuador	Paraguay
Australia	Eswatini	Peru
Bolivia	France ¹¹	Portugal ¹²
Botswana	India	Russia
Brazil	Italy	Singapore
Canada	Mexico	South Africa
China (People's Rep. of)	Mongolia	Switzerland
Czech Republic	New Caledonia	United States of America
Colombia	Norway	Uruguay

2. The Director General publish the following List of Members having a CBPP-free zone¹³ according to the provisions of Chapter 11.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Namibia: one zone located south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence, designated by the Delegate of Namibia in a document addressed to the Director General in October 2015;

AND

3. The Delegates of these Members shall immediately notify the WOAHP Headquarters if CBPP occurs in their countries or free zone within their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

¹¹ Including French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, and Réunion.

¹² Including Azores and Madeira.

¹³ For detailed information on the delimitation of the zone of the Member recognised as free from CBPP, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of WOAHP.

**Endorsement of Official Control Programmes
for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia of Members**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 82nd General Session, the World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 31 establishing the endorsement by WOAHA of an official control programme for contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), in accordance with the relevant provisions of the chapter on CBPP in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*,
2. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve endorsement of their official control programme for CBPP,
3. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Members applying for endorsement of their official control programme for CBPP to meet part of the costs defrayed by WOAHA in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official animal health status evaluations had been compiled by WOAHA Headquarters for the benefit of Members,
5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the WOAHA website,
6. Information published by WOAHA is derived from declarations made by the Delegates of Members. WOAHA is not responsible for the publication and maintenance of the endorsement of Members' official control programme for CBPP based on inaccurate information or non-reporting to WOAHA Headquarters of significant changes in the implementation of relevant measures in the Member subsequent to the time of endorsement of the official control programme for CBPP,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Members with an endorsed official control programme for CBPP, according to the provisions of Chapter 11.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Namibia	Zambia
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2. The Delegates of these Members shall notify WOAHA Headquarters of the occurrence of CBPP, changes in the epidemiological situation and other significant events in their countries or territories in accordance with Chapter 1.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 67th General Session, the World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) established a procedure for annually updating a List of Members and zones, categorised by their bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) risk according to the provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*,
2. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status of certain diseases, including BSE risk status,
3. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Members applying for evaluation of official recognition of BSE risk status to meet part of the costs defrayed by WOAHP in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official animal health status evaluations had been compiled by WOAHP Headquarters for the benefit of Members,
5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the WOAHP website,
6. During the 86th General Session, the Assembly noted an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedure for official recognition of animal health status of non-contiguous territories as part of a Member already having an official animal health status. The document has been published on the WOAHP website,
7. Information published by WOAHP is derived from declarations made by the Delegates of Members. WOAHP is not responsible for the publication and maintenance of Members' or zonal risk status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to WOAHP Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of the BSE risk status,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Members recognised as having a negligible BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina	Denmark	Latvia	Poland
Australia	Estonia	Liechtenstein	Portugal ¹⁵
Austria	Finland ¹⁴	Lithuania	Romania
Belgium	France	Luxembourg	Serbia ¹⁶
Bolivia	Germany	Malta	Singapore
Brazil		Mexico	

¹⁴ Including Åland Islands.

¹⁵ Including Azores and Madeira.

¹⁶ Excluding Kosovo administered by the United Nations.

Bulgaria	Hungary	Namibia	Slovakia
Canada	Iceland	New Zealand	Slovenia
Chile	India	Nicaragua	Spain ¹⁷
Colombia	Ireland	Norway	Sweden
Costa Rica	Israel	Panama	Switzerland
Croatia	Italy	Paraguay	The Netherlands
Cyprus	Japan	Peru	United States of America
Czech Republic	Korea (Rep. of)		Uruguay

2. The Director General publish the following List of Members recognised as having a controlled BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Chinese Taipei	Greece
Ecuador	Russia

3. The Director General publish the following List of Members with zones¹⁸ recognised as having a negligible BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

China (People's Rep. of): a zone designated by the Delegate of China (People's Rep. of) in a document addressed to the Director General in November 2013, consisting of the People's Republic of China, with the exclusion of Hong Kong and Macau;

United Kingdom: one zone consisting of Northern Ireland as designated by the Delegate of the United Kingdom in a document addressed to the Director General in September 2016;

one zone consisting of Jersey as designated by the Delegate of the United Kingdom in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2019;

4. The Director General publish the following List of Members with zones⁵ recognised as having a controlled BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

United Kingdom: one zone consisting of England and Wales as designated by the Delegate of the United Kingdom in documents addressed to the Director General in September and October 2016 and in November 2021;

one zone consisting of Scotland as designated by the Delegate of the United Kingdom in documents addressed to the Director General in September and October 2016 and in December 2018;

AND

5. The Delegates of these Members shall immediately notify WOAHA Headquarters if BSE occurs in their countries or zones within their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

¹⁷ Including Balearic Islands and Canary Islands.

¹⁸ For detailed information on the delimitation of the zones of the Members recognised as having a negligible or controlled BSE risk, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of WOAHA.

Recognition of the African Horse Sickness Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 80th General Session, the World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 19, which amended the chapter of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* on African horse sickness (AHS). These standards provide a pathway for Members or zones to be recognised by WOAAH as free from AHS,
2. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases, including AHS,
3. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified and updated the financial implications for Members applying for evaluation of official recognition of animal health status to meet part of the costs defrayed by WOAAH in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official animal health status evaluations had been compiled by WOAAH Headquarters for the benefit of Members,
5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the WOAAH website,
6. During the 86th General Session, the Assembly noted an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedure for official recognition of animal health status of non-contiguous territories as part of a Member already having an official animal health status. The document has been published on the WOAAH website,
7. Information published by WOAAH is derived from declarations made by the Delegates of Members. WOAAH is not responsible for the publication and maintenance of Members' or zonal animal health status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to WOAAH Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from AHS,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Members recognised as AHS-free according to the provisions of Chapter 12.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Algeria	Cyprus	Kuwait	Portugal ²²
Andorra	Czech Republic	Latvia	Qatar
Argentina	Denmark	Liechtenstein	Romania
Australia	Ecuador	Lithuania	Singapore
Austria	Egypt	Luxembourg	Slovakia
Azerbaijan	Estonia	Malta	Slovenia
Bahrain	Finland ²⁰	Malaysia	Spain ²³
Belgium	France ²¹	Mexico	Sweden
Bolivia	Germany	Morocco	Switzerland
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Greece	New Caledonia	Thailand
Brazil	Hungary	New Zealand	The Netherlands
Bulgaria	Iceland	North Macedonia (Rep. of)	Tunisia
Canada	India	Norway	Türkiye (Rep. of)
Chile	Ireland	Oman	United Arab Emirates
China (People's Rep. of) ¹⁹	Italy	Paraguay	United Kingdom ²⁴
Chinese Taipei	Japan	Peru	United States of America ²⁵
Colombia	Kazakhstan	Philippines	Uruguay
Croatia	Korea (Rep. of)	Poland	

AND

- The Delegates of these Members shall immediately notify WOAHA Headquarters if AHS occurs in their countries or their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

¹⁹ Including Hong Kong and Macau.

²⁰ Including Åland Islands.

²¹ Including French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Réunion, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Martin, Saint Pierre and Miquelon.

²² Including Azores and Madeira.

²³ Including Balearic Islands and Canary Islands.

²⁴ Including Cayman Islands, Guernsey (incl. Alderney and Sark), Isle of Man, Jersey, Saint Helena and Falkland Islands (Malvinas). (A dispute exists between the Government of Argentina and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) [see resolution 2065 (XX) of the General Assembly of the United Nations]).

²⁵ Including American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.

Recognition of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 81st General Session, the World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 29, which amended the chapter of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* on peste des petits ruminants (PPR). These standards provide a pathway for Members or zones to be recognised by WOAHP as free from PPR,
2. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases, including PPR,
3. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16 which specified and updated the financial implications for Members applying for evaluation of official recognition of animal health status to meet part of the costs defrayed by WOAHP in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official animal health status evaluations had been compiled by WOAHP Headquarters for the benefit of Members,
5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the WOAHP website,
6. During the 86th General Session, the Assembly noted an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedure for official recognition of animal health status of non-contiguous territories as part of a Member already having an official animal health status. The document has been published on the WOAHP website,
7. Information published by WOAHP is derived from declarations made by the Delegates of Members. WOAHP is not responsible for the publication and maintenance of Members' or zonal animal health status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to WOAHP Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from PPR,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Members recognised as PPR-free according to the provisions of Chapter 14.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina	Denmark	Liechtenstein	Portugal ²⁸
Australia	Ecuador	Lithuania	Romania
Austria	Estonia	Luxembourg	Russia
Azerbaijan	Eswatini	Madagascar	Singapore
Belgium	Finland ²⁶	Malta	Slovakia
Bolivia	France ²⁷	Mauritius	Slovenia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Germany	Mexico	South Africa
Botswana	Greece	New Caledonia	Spain ²⁹
Brazil	Hungary	New Zealand	Sweden
Canada	Iceland	North Macedonia (Rep. of)	Switzerland
Chile	Ireland	Norway	The Netherlands
Chinese Taipei	Italy	Paraguay	United Kingdom ³⁰
Colombia	Korea (Rep. of)	Peru	United States of
Croatia	Latvia	Philippines	America ³¹
Cyprus	Lesotho	Poland	Uruguay
Czech Republic			

2. The Director General publish the following List of Members having a PPR-free zone³² according to the provisions of Chapter 14.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Namibia: one zone located south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence, designated by the Delegate of Namibia in a document addressed to the Director General in November 2014;

AND

3. The Delegates of these Members shall immediately notify WOAHP Headquarters if PPR occurs in their countries or free zone within their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

²⁶ Including Åland Islands.

²⁷ Including French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Réunion, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Martin, Saint Pierre and Miquelon.

²⁸ Including Azores and Madeira.

²⁹ Including Balearic Islands and Canary Islands.

³⁰ Including Cayman Islands, Guernsey (incl. Alderney and Sark), Isle of Man, Jersey, Saint Helena and Falkland Islands (Malvinas). (A dispute exists between the Government of Argentina and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) [see resolution 2065 (XX) of the General Assembly of the United Nations]).

³¹ Including American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.

³² For detailed information on the delimitation of the zone of the Member recognised as free from PPR, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of WOAHP.

Recognition of the Classical Swine Fever Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 81st General Session, the World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 29, which amended the chapter of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code) on classical swine fever (CSF). These standards provide a pathway for Members or zones to be recognised by WOAHP as free from CSF,
2. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases, including CSF,
3. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16 which specified and updated the financial implications for Members applying for evaluation of official recognition of animal health status to meet part of the costs defrayed by WOAHP in the evaluation process,
4. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official animal health status evaluations had been compiled by WOAHP Headquarters for the benefit of Members,
5. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the WOAHP website,
6. During the 86th General Session, the Assembly noted an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedure for official recognition of animal health status of non-contiguous territories as part of a Member already having an official animal health status. The document has been published on the WOAHP website,
7. Information published by WOAHP is derived from declarations made by the Delegates of Members. WOAHP is not responsible for the publication and maintenance of Members' or zonal animal health status based on inaccurate information or untimely reporting to WOAHP Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from CSF,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Members recognised as CSF-free according to the provisions of Chapter 15.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina	Germany	Paraguay
Australia	Hungary	Poland
Austria	Ireland	Portugal ³⁵
Belgium	Italy	Slovakia
Bulgaria	Latvia	Slovenia
Canada	Liechtenstein	Spain ³⁶
Chile	Luxembourg	

³⁵ Including Azores and Madeira.

³⁶ Including Balearic Islands and Canary Islands.

Costa Rica	Malta	Sweden
Croatia	Mexico	Switzerland
Czech Republic	New Caledonia	The Netherlands
Denmark	New Zealand	United Kingdom ³⁷
Finland ³³	Norway	United States of America ³⁸
France ³⁴		Uruguay

2. The Director General publish the following List of Members having CSF-free zones according to the provisions of Chapter 15.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Brazil: one zone composed of the States of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina as designated by the Delegate of Brazil in a document addressed to the Director General in September 2014;

one zone covering the States of Acre, Bahia, Espírito Santo, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, Rondônia, São Paulo, Sergipe and Tocantins, Distrito Federal, and the municipalities of Guajará, Boca do Acre, South of the municipality of Canutama and Southwest of the municipality of Lábrea in the State of Amazonas as designated by the Delegate of Brazil in a document addressed to the Director General in September 2015 and in October 2020;

one zone consisting of the State of Paraná as designated by the Delegate of Brazil in a document addressed to the Director General in October 2020;

Colombia: one zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in a document addressed to the Director General in September 2015;

the central-eastern zone as designated by the Delegate of Colombia in a document addressed to the Director General in October 2020;

Ecuador: one zone consisting of the insular territory of the Galápagos as designated by the Delegate of Ecuador in a document addressed to the Director General in October 2018;

AND

3. The Delegates of these Members shall immediately notify WOAHP Headquarters if CSF occurs in their countries or free zone within their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

³³ Including Åland Islands.

³⁴ Including French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte and Réunion.

³⁷ Including Guernsey (incl. Alderney and Sark), Isle of Man and Jersey.

³⁸ Including Guam, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.

RESOLUTION No. 27

Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for dog-mediated rabies of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 84th General Session, the World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 26, which confirmed Members' commitment towards the elimination of dog-mediated rabies by 2030,
2. During the 87th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 27 establishing the endorsement by WOAAH of an official control programme for dog-mediated rabies, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the chapter on infection with rabies virus in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*,
3. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specified the procedure for Members to follow to achieve endorsement of their official control programme for dog-mediated rabies,
4. Through the Adapted Procedure 2020, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 16, which specified the financial implications for Members applying for endorsement of their official control programme for dog-mediated rabies to meet part of the costs defrayed by WOAAH in the evaluation process,
5. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official animal health status evaluations had been compiled by WOAAH Headquarters for the benefit of Members,
6. During the 85th General Session, the Assembly noted a complete revision of the standard operating procedures providing further details on the process of official status recognition. The document has been published on the WOAAH website,
7. Information published by WOAAH is derived from declarations made by the Delegates of Members. WOAAH is not responsible for the publication and maintenance of the endorsement of Members' official control programme for dog-mediated rabies based on inaccurate information or non-reporting to WOAAH Headquarters of significant changes in the implementation of relevant measures in the Member subsequent to the time of endorsement of the official control programme for dog-mediated rabies,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Members with an endorsed official control programme for dog-mediated rabies, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.15. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Namibia	Philippines	Zambia
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2. The Delegates of these Members shall notify WOAAH Headquarters the occurrence of dog-mediated rabies, changes in the epidemiological situation and other significant events in their countries or territories in accordance with Chapter 1.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

RESOLUTION No. 28

Amendments to the WOAAH *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The content of the WOAAH *Aquatic Animal Health Code* (the *Aquatic Code*) is the result of modifications made by the World Assembly of Delegates during previous WOAH General Sessions;
2. It is necessary to update the *Aquatic Code* in accordance with amendments proposed by the WOAH Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Annexes 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 and 39 of Document 91 GS/Tech-06), after consultation with the World Assembly of Delegates.

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the *Aquatic Code* proposed in Annexes 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 and 39 of Document 91 GS/Tech-06 in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic;
2. To adopt the updates to the *Aquatic Code* proposed in Annex 8 of Document 91 GS/Tech-06 in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic, with the following modifications:
 - 2.1. In Annex 8 (Chapter 1.3. 'Diseases Listed by WOAH')
 - a) Replace 'the genogroups of the virus species *infectious spleen and kidney necrosis virus*' with '*Megalocytivirus pagrus 1*'.
3. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the *Aquatic Code* with appropriate numbering and formatting.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

Amendments to the WOAHA *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The content of the WOAHA *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals* (the *Aquatic Manual*) is the result of modifications made by the World Assembly of Delegates during previous WOAHA General Sessions,
2. Members were asked for the comments of their specialists for each new or revised chapter of the *Aquatic Manual* before it was finalised by the Aquatic Standards Commission,
3. It is necessary to update the *Aquatic Manual* in accordance with amendments proposed by the WOAHA Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Annexes 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58 and 59 of Document 91 GS/Tech-06).

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the following updates to the *Aquatic Manual* chapters proposed in the Annexes of Document 91 GS/Tech-06 in English, the text being authentic:

Chapter 2.2.0. 'General information (diseases of crustaceans)' (Annex 51)

Chapter 2.2.2. 'Infection with *Aphanomyces astaci* (crayfish plague)' (Annex 52)

Chapter 2.2.6. 'Infection with *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* nodavirus (white tail disease)' (Annex 53)

With the amendments approved by the Assembly:

In Table 4.4.1.1. 'Real-time RT-PCR: primer sequences and cycling parameters' for method 1, add "Reverse transcription at 37°C/60 min; 1 cycle 95°C/10 min" to the cycling parameters. For method 2 and 3, change the cycling parameters to "Reverse transcription at 42°C/60 min, 70°C/5 min; 1 cycle 95°C/10 min; 50 cycles of 4°C/30 sec, 58°C/30 sec, 72°C/30 sec"; and delete the table footnote: "(a)A denaturation step prior to cycling has not been included."

In Table 4.4.2.1. 'Conventional RT-PCR: primer sequences and cycling parameters' for methods 1 and 3, add "Reverse transcription at 52°C/30 min; 1 cycle 95°C/2 min" to the cycling parameters. For method 2, add "First step as for method 1" in the cycling parameters; and delete the table footnote: "(a)A denaturation step prior to cycling has not been included."

Chapter 2.2.9. 'Infection with yellow head virus genotype 1' (Annex 54)

With the amendments approved by the Assembly:

In Table 4.4.1.1. 'Real-time RT-PCR: primer sequences and cycling parameters' delete the footnote: "(a)A denaturation step prior to cycling has not been included".

In Table 4.4.2.1. 'Conventional RT-PCR: primer sequences and cycling parameters' add "Reverse transcription at 50°C/30 min and 94°C/2 min" to the cycling parameters for all three methods. For method 2, add "35 cycles of 95°C/30 sec, 66°C/30 sec and 72°C/45 sec" in the cycling parameters for the nested step; and delete the table footnote: "(a)A denaturation step prior to cycling has not been included."

Chapter 2.2.X. 'Infection with decapod iridescent virus 1 (DIV1)' (Annex 55)

Chapter 2.4.0. 'General information: diseases of molluscs' (Annex 56)

Chapter 2.4.1. 'Infection with abalone herpesvirus' (Annex 57)

Chapter 2.4.4. 'Infection with *Marteilia refringens*' (Annex 58)

Section 2.2.1 of Chapter 2.4.5. 'Infection with *Perkinsus marinus*' (Annex 59)

2. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted text in a revised edition in the on-line version of the *Aquatic Manual*.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

Amendments to the WOAH *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The content of the WOAH *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) is the result of modifications made by the World Assembly of Delegates at previous WOAH General Sessions;
2. It is necessary to update the *Terrestrial Code* in accordance with amendments proposed by the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Annexes 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 of Document 91GS/Tech-04), after consultation with the World Assembly of Delegates.

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the *Terrestrial Code* proposed in Annexes 4, 5, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20 and 21 of Document 91GS/Tech-04 in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic;
2. To adopt the updates to the *Terrestrial Code* proposed in Annexes 9, 10, 12 and 17 of Document 91GS/Tech-04 in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic, with the following modifications:
 - 2.1. In Annex 9 (Chapter 6.10.)
 - a) In the English version only, in Article 6.10.1., in the third paragraph, add 'good' before 'animal husbandry'.
 - b) In Article 6.10.3., point 2, in the fifth paragraph, replace 'which excludes growth promotion' with 'as defined in Article 6.9.2.'
 - c) In Article 6.10.3., point 10, in the third paragraph, replace 'Veterinary Services' with 'The Competent Authority'.
 - d) In Article 6.10.3., in point 15 f), add 'the use of' after 'safe and effective alternatives to'.
 - e) In Article 6.10.6., point 3, in the first paragraph, remove 'exclude growth promotion and' after 'should'.
 - f) In Article 6.10.7., in point 1, remove 'and supply', and add 'and its supply' after 'antimicrobial agents';

replace 'farmers keeping' with 'breeders, owners and keepers of'.

- g) In Article 6.10.7., in point 4,
replace 'producer' with 'breeder, owner or keeper'.

2.2. In Annex 10 (Chapter 7.5.)

- a) In Article 7.5.6., in the fourth indent,
add a comma after 'adverse incidents'.
- b) In Article 7.5.7., in the second paragraph,
In the English version only, add "to" after 'pain and';
replace 'in charge of' with 'carrying out';
replace 'and' after 'shackling' with 'or';
In the English version only, add 'of' between 'bleeding' and 'animals'.
- c) In the English version only, in Article 7.5.7., in the fourth paragraph,
add 'the' after 'reduce'.
- d) In the English version only, in Article 7.5.13., point 3, in the third paragraph,
remove 'to' after 'animals'.
- e) In Article 7.5.14., in point 2 g),
replace 'referring to' with 'indicative of'.
- f) In Article 7.5.15., in point 2 d),
replace 'referring to' with 'indicative of'.
- g) In Article 7.5.16., point 1, in the second paragraph,
In the English version, remove the first sentence 'Animals should only be stunned using stunning methods that have been scientifically validated as effective for stunning that species';
In the French version, remove the first sentence 'Les animaux doivent être étourdis uniquement au moyen de méthodes d'étourdissement qui ont été scientifiquement validées comme étant efficaces pour étourdir ces espèces'.
- h) In the English version only, in Article 7.5.17., point 1, the first paragraph, in the last sentence,
add a coma after 'skull' and replace 'are' with ', is'.
- i) In the English version only, in Article 7.5.17., point 4, in the first paragraph,
replace 'skull' with 'skulls'.

- j) In Article 7.5.19., point 4, in the first paragraph,
In the English version only, add a coma after 'used';
replace ', as they can' with 'and'.
 - k) In the English version only, in Article 7.5.20., in point 3, title 'slaughter with stunning',
in point c),
replace 'who' with 'that'.
 - l) In the English version only, in Article 7.5.24., in point 4,
add a comma after the 'fixtures'.
 - m) In Article 7.5.25. in point 2 c),
replace 'referring to' with 'indicative of'.
 - n) In Article 7.5.27. in point 2 d),
replace 'referring to' with 'indicative of'.
 - o) In Article 7.5.28., point 4, in the fourth paragraph,
replace 'Shackling should not be used with heavy birds such as parent flocks, turkeys
or with birds that are more susceptible to fractures (e.g. end-of-lay hens).' by
'Shackling of heavy birds such as parent flocks, turkeys or birds that are more
susceptible to fractures (e.g. end-of-lay hens) should only be operated by specifically
trained staff with adequate equipment in a manner to minimise distress, fear and
pain.'.
 - p) In Article 7.5.30., point 4, in the second paragraph,
add 'with field evidence' after 'scientific data';
add 'and conditions' after 'types'.
 - q) In Article 7.5.30. point 4.,
add [under study] at the end of the following paragraphs:
'Ducks, geese and quails should not be stunned at frequencies higher than 200 Hz.';
'Chicken and turkeys should not be stunned at frequencies higher than 600 Hz.'
 - r) In the English version only, in Article 7.5.33., point 1., in the first paragraph,
delete 'of' after 'many'.
- 2.3. In Annex 12 (Chapter 8.8.)
- a) In Article 8.8.1bis., in point 1,
replace 'UHT' with 'Ultra-high temperature (UHT)'

- b) In the English version only, in Article 8.8.1bis., in point 2,
add 'a' after 'in'.
- 2.4. In Annex 17 (Chapter 8.Z.), Article 8.Z.11.,
- a) replace the proposed point 1 by the following:
 - '1) the donor males:
 - a) showed no clinical sign of surra on the day of semen collection;
 - AND
 - b) either:
 - i) have been kept for at least 90 days prior to semen collection in an *establishment* in which *surveillance* in accordance with Articles 8.Z.12., 8.Z.13. and 8.Z.14. demonstrates that no *case* had occurred during that period; or
 - ii) were subjected to an antibody detection test on a blood sample taken on two occasions, with an interval of 30 days, with negative results; '
3. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the *Terrestrial Code* with appropriate numbering and formatting.
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

**Amendments to the
WOAH *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals***

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual)*, like the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, is an important contribution to the international harmonisation of sanitary standards related to terrestrial animals and animal products,
2. Members were asked for the comments of their specialists for each new or revised chapter of the *Terrestrial Manual* before it was finalised by the Biological Standards Commission,
3. The Biological Standards Commission developed evidence-based criteria to be applied when deciding to maintain a chapter in the *Terrestrial Manual* on non-listed diseases

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the following texts for the *Terrestrial Manual*:
 - 1.1.5. 'Quality management in veterinary testing laboratories'
With the amendments approved by the Assembly:
In Section A.3. 'Accreditation', point xiv) to replace "Has demonstrable competence to generate technically valid results" with "Effective risk identification and management system"
 - 1.1.9. 'Tests for sterility and freedom from contamination of biological materials intended for veterinary use'
With the amendments approved by the Assembly:
In Table 2. 'Some American Type Culture Collection strains with their respective medium and incubation conditions' to add two new lines (microorganisms): "Potato dextrose agar, *Aspergillus brasiliensis* ATCC #16404, 20–25°C, Aerobic" and "Nutrient agar, nutrient broth, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* ATCC #9027, 30–35°C, Aerobic"
In Section G.2.4. 'Example of a general procedure for detection of *Salmonella*' to replace "*Salmonella* spp." with *Salmonella* serovars"
 - 2.2.4. 'Measurement uncertainty'
 - 2.2.6. 'Selection and use of reference samples and panels'
 - 3.1.5. 'Crimean–Congo haemorrhagic fever'
 - 3.3.6. 'Avian tuberculosis' (Section C. 'Requirements for diagnostic biologicals' only)
 - 3.4.1. 'Bovine anaplasmosis'
With the amendment approved by the Assembly:
In Section A 'Introduction', to add the words "*A. centrale*" after the words "type species,"
 - 3.4.7. 'Bovine viral diarrhoea'
 - 3.4.12. 'Lumpy skin disease' (vaccine section only)

- 3.6.9. 'Equine rhinopneumonitis (infection with Varicellovirus equidalph1)'
 - 3.8.1. 'Border disease'
 - 3.8.12. 'Sheep pox and goat pox'
2. To remove the following chapters from the *Terrestrial Manual* following application of the evidence-based above-mentioned criteria:
- 3.2.4. 'Nosemosis of honey bees'
 - 3.3.6. 'Avian tuberculosis' (apart from Section C. 'Requirements for diagnostic biologicals')
 - 3.3.7. 'Duck virus enteritis'
 - 3.3.9. 'Fowl cholera'
 - 3.3.10. 'Fowl pox'
 - 3.4.13. 'Malignant catarrhal fever'
 - 3.6.4. 'Epizootic lymphangitis'
 - 3.8.8. 'Ovine pulmonary adenocarcinoma (adenomatosis)'
 - 3.9.2. 'Atrophic rhinitis of swine'
 - 3.9.9. 'Teschovirus encephalomyelitis'
 - 3.10.2. 'Cryptosporidiosis'
 - 3.10.4. 'Infection with *Campylobacter jejuni* and *C. coli*'
 - 3.10.5. '*Listeria monocytogenes*'
 - 3.10.6. 'Mange'
 - 3.10.8. 'Toxoplasmosis'
3. Once Section C. 'Requirements for diagnostic biologicals' of Chapter 3.3.6. 'Avian tuberculosis' is adopted, to transfer the information to Chapter 3.1.13 'Mammalian tuberculosis (infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex)'.
4. To request the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition in the on-line version of the *Terrestrial Manual*.
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

Designation of WOA Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animal diseases

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The WOA's *Basic Texts* provide the Terms of Reference, designation criteria, and internal rules for WOA Reference Laboratories,
2. The Terms of Reference of the WOA Biological Standards Commission and the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission include the responsibility to examine applications from Members relating to the creation of new WOA Reference Laboratories with activities corresponding to the Commission's scientific mandate and report its findings to the Director General,
3. All WOA Reference Laboratory applications are assessed using standardised criteria that include: the institution's ability, capacity and readiness to provide services; the scientific and technical standing of the institution concerned at the national and international levels; the quality of its scientific and technical leadership including internationally recognised expertise; the institution's prospective stability in terms of personnel, activity and funding; the technical relevance of the institution and its activities to WOA's programme priorities,
4. Details of the applicant laboratories that have been assessed by the WOA Biological Standards Commission or the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission are published in the reports of the meetings of the Commissions,
5. All Reference Laboratory applications are endorsed by the WOA Council,
6. Proposals for a major change in a WOA Reference Laboratory follow the same procedure,
7. Article 4 of the Internal Rules for WOA Reference Centres states that "Applications endorsed by the Council shall be presented to the Assembly for approval",

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To designate the following new WOA Reference Laboratories for terrestrial animal diseases and add them to the list of WOA Reference Laboratories (available on the WOA web site):

WOA Reference Laboratory for sheep pox and goat pox
Exotic and vector-borne diseases (EXOVEC), Department of infectious diseases in animals,
Sciensano, Uccle, BELGIUM

WOA Reference Laboratory for rabies
Veterinary Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture, New Taipei City, CHINESE TAIPEI

WOAH Reference Laboratory for tularemia

Institute for Bacterial Infections and Zoonoses, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI), Jena, GERMANY

WOAH Reference Laboratory for leptospirosis

Livestock Disease Diagnosis Laboratory, Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (ICAR-NIVEDI), Karnataka, INDIA

WOAH Reference Laboratory for peste des petits ruminants

Livestock Disease Diagnosis Laboratory, Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (ICAR-NIVEDI), Karnataka, INDIA

WOAH Reference Laboratory for rabies

Laboratory for Emerging Viral Zoonoses, Research and Innovation Department, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale Delle Venezie, Legnaro (PD), ITALY

WOAH Reference Laboratory for salmonellosis

Central Veterinary Laboratory, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, Windhoek, NAMIBIA

WOAH Reference Laboratory for theileriosis

Epidemiology, Parasites and Vectors, Agricultural Research Council, Onderstepoort Veterinary Research, SOUTH AFRICA

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

Designation of WOAAH Collaborating Centres

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The WOAAH's *Basic Texts* provide the Terms of Reference, designation criteria, and internal rules for WOAAH Collaborating Centres,
2. The Terms of Reference of each of the four elected WOAAH Specialist Commissions include the responsibility to examine applications from Members relating to the designation of new WOAAH Collaborating Centres with activities corresponding to the Commission's area of expertise,
3. All WOAAH Collaborating Centre applications are assessed by the appropriate WOAAH Specialist Commission using standardised criteria that include: the institution's ability, capacity and readiness to provide services; the scientific and technical standing of the institution concerned at the national and international levels; the quality of its scientific and technical leadership including internationally recognised expertise; the institution's prospective stability in terms of personnel, activity and funding; and the technical and geographical relevance of the institution and its activities to WOAAH's programme priorities,
4. Details of the applicant institutions that have been assessed by a Specialist Commission are published in the reports of the meetings of the Commission,
5. All Collaborating Centre applications are assessed by the corresponding Regional Commission and endorsed by the WOAAH Council,
6. Proposals for a major change in a WOAAH Collaborating Centre follow the same procedure,
7. Article 4 of the Internal Rules for WOAAH Reference Centres states that "Applications endorsed by the Council shall be presented to the Assembly for approval",

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To designate the following new WOAAH Collaborating Centres and add them to the list of WOAAH Collaborating Centres (available on the WOAAH web site):

WOAH Collaborating Centre for Fish Health Management in the Middle East Region
Central Laboratory for Aquaculture Research (CLAR), Sharkia, EGYPT

WOAH Collaborating Centre for Reference Materials of Molecular Diagnostic Techniques in Aquatic and Terrestrial Animal Diseases
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), KOREA (REP. OF)

WOAH *Collaborating Centre for Field Epidemiology*
Centre National de Veille Zoosanitaire (CNVZ), Tunis, TUNISIA

WOAH *Collaborating Centre for Genome Monitoring of Swine Viral Disease*
National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF), Manhattan, Kansas, UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

**Register of terrestrial animal disease diagnostic kits validated and certified by
WOAH**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 71st General Session of WOAHA in May 2003, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. XXIX endorsing the principle of validation and certification of diagnostic assays for animal diseases by WOAHA, and giving a mandate to the Director General to set up the specific standard procedures to be used before the final decision on the validation and certification of a diagnostic kit is taken by the World Assembly of Delegates,
2. The Resolution has established that 'fitness for purpose' should be used as a criterion for validation,
3. The aim of the WOAHA procedure for the registration of diagnostic kits is to establish a register of recognised kits for WOAHA Members and for diagnostic kit manufacturers,
4. WOAHA Members need kits that are known to be validated according to WOAHA standards to enhance confidence in kits,
5. The WOAHA Register of recognised diagnostic kits provides greater transparency and clarity of the validation process and a means for recognising those manufacturers that validate and certify tests marketed in kit format,
6. According to WOAHA Standard Operating Procedure, registration of diagnostic kits included in the Register has to be renewed every 5 years,
7. During the 74th General Session in May 2006, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. XXXII on the importance of recognising and implementing WOAHA standards for the validation and registration of diagnostic assays by Members,
8. The *Validation Studies Abstracts* are available as Annexes 18 and 19 of the report of the Biological Standards Commission meeting of 5–9 February 2024 for the *Genelix™ ASFV Real-time PCR Detection kit*, and *Sentinel® ASFV Antibody Rapid Test*,
9. There are no Validation Studies Abstract for the Avian Influenza Antibody Test Kit (registration number 20080203), and the Newcastle Disease Virus Antibody Test Kit (registration number 20140109) as these are 5-year renewals without any additional data evaluation or changes.

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES THAT

1. In accordance with the WOAHA procedure for registration of diagnostic kits and the recommendations of the Biological Standards Commission, the Director General proposes the inclusion in the WOAHA Register of the following new terrestrial diagnostic kits certified by WOAHA for a period of 5 years:

Name of the diagnostic kit	Name of the Manufacturer	Fitness for purpose
Genelix™ ASFV Real-time PCR Detection kit	Sanigen Co., Ltd (Korea [Rep. of])	The Genelix™ ASFV Real-time PCR Detection kit is a product that qualitatively detects and confirms the diagnosis of African swine fever virus (ASFV) using a real-time PCR detection system in whole blood, serum, and tissues of swine suspected of being infected with ASFV.
Sentinel® ASFV Antibody Rapid Test	Excelsior Bio-System Incorporation (Chinese Taipei)	The Sentinel® ASFV antibody test is a qualitative lateral flow assay that detects African Swine Fever Virus (ASFV) antibodies in serum associated with current infection or an immune response to previous exposure in an individual pig, group of pigs or defined population of pigs. For use in conjunction with other tests or diagnostic procedures, as an aid in diagnosis or other clinical or epidemiological assessments.

2. In accordance with the WOAHP procedure for the registration of diagnostic kits and the recommendations of the Biological Standards Commission, the Director General proposes to renew for a period of an 5 additional years the inclusion in the WOAHP Register of the following diagnostic kits certified by WOAHP as validated as fit for purpose:

Name of the diagnostic kit	Name of the Manufacturer	Fitness for purpose
Avian Influenza Antibody Test Kit (registration number 20080203)	BioChek (UK) Ltd	<p>Fit for serological diagnosis of type A avian influenza in chickens (specific to IgG in serum) and for the following purposes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To demonstrate historical freedom from infection in a defined population (country/zone/compartments/herd); 2. To demonstrate re-establishment of freedom after outbreaks in a defined population (country/zone/compartments/herd); 3. To confirm diagnosis of suspect or clinical cases; 4. To estimate prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis in non-vaccinated populations (surveys/herd health schemes/disease control); 5. To determine immune status in individual animals or populations (post-vaccination). <p>**The original registration Resolution No.27 was adopted in May 2008 by the World Assembly of the OIE/WOAHP Delegates</p>

Newcastle Disease Virus Antibody Test Kit (registration number 20140109))	BioChek (UK) Ltd	<p>Fit to detect Newcastle disease virus specific IgG antibodies in chicken sera and for the following purposes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To demonstrate historical freedom from infection in a defined population (country/zone/compartments/flock); 2. To determine immune status in individual animals or populations (post-vaccination); 3. To monitor infection or disease in unvaccinated populations; 4. To estimate prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis in non-vaccinated populations (surveys/ flock health schemes/disease control). <p>**The original registration Resolution No. 29 was adopted in May 2014 by the World Assembly of the OIE/WOAH Delegates</p>
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 30 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

WOAH List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance

CONSIDERING THAT

1. WOAHA's List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance and WHO's List of Critically Important Antimicrobials were developed in response to the recommendations made during the FAO/OIE/WHO Expert Workshop on Non-Human Antimicrobial Usage and Antimicrobial Resistance held in Geneva, Switzerland, in December 2003 (Scientific Assessment) and in Oslo, Norway, in March 2004 (Management Options),
2. A preliminary version of the List was first adopted in May 2006, with resolution No.XXVIII adopted in May 2007. Subsequent revisions of the WOAHA List were proposed for adoption through resolutions at the General Sessions in May 2013, 2015 and 2018,
3. In 2019, the adoption of Resolution No.14 at the 87th WOAHA General Session replaced the *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance with a Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance. This change was to ensure the sustainability of WOAHA's Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance and Prudent Use and to implement the recommendations made during the OIE 2nd Global Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance,
4. In 2024, the recommendations of the WHO List of Medically Important Antimicrobials (MIA List) were updated to include the AWaRe classification and the WHO Essential Medicines List, resulting in the move of phosphonic acid derivatives (e.g., fosfomycin) to the Highest Priority Critically Important Antimicrobials (HPCIA),
5. The Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance revised the recommendations of WOAHA's List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance to align with WHO MIA List following a One Health approach, as an essential contribution towards the development of guidelines for responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in both aquatic and terrestrial animals,
6. During its February 2024 meeting, the Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance recommended that WOAHA's Director General present the revised List for adoption during the upcoming 91st General Session.

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the revised List of antimicrobial agents of veterinary importance presented as Annex 1 of the report of the WOAHA's Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance to the 91st General Session (Doc. 91GS Tech-03).
2. To request the Director General to publish the adopted WOAHA List on the WOAHA website.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 29 May 2024
in view of an entry into force on 31 May 2024)

REPORTS
of the Meetings of the WOAHA Regional Commissions
held during the 91st General Session

Paris, 27 May 2024

Report of the Meeting of the Regional Commission for Africa

Session 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).

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.

1. Adoption of the agenda

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

2. Analysis and evaluation of WOA's institutional, technical, and financial governance

Dr François Caya, WOA Chief of Staff, introduced Mr Eelco Szabo, a legal and governance consultant and part of a consortium mandated by WOA to undertake what is commonly referred to as the external review of the WOA Basic Texts.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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'

5. **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)**

The Regional Commission selected the following three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the WOAAH 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.

6. **Africa PPP Forum in the Veterinary Domain**

Dr Rahul Srivastava, WOAAH Public Private Partnership Project Manager, presented a brief review of the Africa Public–Private Partnership (PPP) Forum in the veterinary domain.

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 WOAAH'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.

Therefore, understanding the potential of such a platform, WOAAH 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.

Dr Srivastava informed the meeting that the forum will be officially launched during the WOAAH 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.

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

Dr Laibané Dieudonné Dahourou, WOAAH Programme Officer, commented on the upcoming Veterinary Workforce Conference to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 26 to 28 November 2024.

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.

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.

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.

8. Report of activities within the GF-TADs mechanism in Africa

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.

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.

9. 2025 Budgeted Work Programme – Income Estimates and Contribution Scale

Mr Xavier Pairault, WOAHA Director of Administration, explained the rationale behind the proposal of increasing the statutory contributions rates by 6.9% for 2025.

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%.

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](#).

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.

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

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.

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.

The Regional Commission supported the Director General's decision.

11. **WOAHA Regions' kiosk**

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

12. **Elections of the Specialist Commissions**

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.

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.

Dr Arroyo closed her intervention by reminding the Delegates of their roles during each step of the elections.

13. **Elections: voting modalities and quorum**

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.

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

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.

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)

15. **Closing**

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

Session 2 (face to face)

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.

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.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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.

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

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

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 WOAAH 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.

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.

The President of the Regional Commission thanked the Delegate of Togo for his contributions and for representing the Region well in Council.

3. WOAAH Incident Management System

Dr Madison Wimmers, Project Officer of WOAAH's Preparedness and Resilience Department presented the ongoing work to develop WOAAH 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 WOAAH 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 \(General Session, 2022\)](#).

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 WOAH 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.

4. **Application from Tunisia for a WOAH Collaborating Centre for Field Epidemiology**

Professor Malek Zrelli, Councillor of the Minister of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries, and 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 WOAH Collaborating Centre for Field Epidemiology.

He reported that all details had been sent to the Delegates in advance.

The proposal was approved unanimously by the Regional Commission.

5. **Closing**

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

**MEETING OF THE
WOAH REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Session 1 (virtual)

**21 May 2024
(1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. CEST)**

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 WOA’s institutional, technical and financial governance (Dr François Caya, WOA’s 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 WOA 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, WOA Programme Officer)
- 2:25 p.m. – 2:35 p.m. Report of activities within the GF-TADs mechanism in Africa (Dr Viola Chemis, WOA Programme officer)
- 2:35 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. 2025 Budgeted Programme – Income Estimates and Contribution Scale (Mr Xavier Pairault, WOA 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, WOA 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)

Agenda

- 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

Session 1 (virtual)

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).

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

1. **Adoption of the Agenda**

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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 Szabo 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.

Following a brief introduction of Resolution No. 12 titled 'Revision of the WOAAH 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.

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

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.

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.

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

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'

5. Selection of 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)

The Regional Commission selected the following strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the WOAAH 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

6. **One Health and Quadripartite activities in the region**

Dr Maria Eugenia Chimenti, Technical Assistant, WOAAH 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.

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

Dr Mauro Meske, Project Officer, WOAAH'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.

8. **2025 Budgeted Work Programme – Income Estimates and Contribution Scale**

Mr Xavier Pairault, WOAAH Director of Administration, explained the rationale behind the proposal of increasing the statutory contributions rates by 6.9% for 2025.

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 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%.

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; and 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.

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.

9. Discussion on regional positions for WOAH General Session

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](#)).

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.

10. WOAH Regions' kiosk

Ms Nathaly Monsalve, WOAH 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 WOAH at regional level. She encouraged Delegates to visit the kiosk and interact with colleagues from the Regions.

11. Elections of the Specialist Commissions

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.

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.

Dr Caya closed his intervention by reminding the Delegates of their roles during each step of the elections.

12. Elections: voting modalities and quorum

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.

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

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

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 Rodriguez 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.

14. Closing

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

Session 2 (face to face)

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.

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

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

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

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.

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)

Specialist Commissions:

The Regional Commission agreed on the following proposals for positions:

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Gastón Funes (Argentina) – Vice-president
Dr Bernardo Todeschini (Brazil) – Member

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Alicia Gallardo Lagno (Chile) – President
Dr Bernita Griffin (Canada) – Member

Biological Standards Commission

Dr Chris Oura (Trinidad and Tobago) – Vice-president
Dr Aruna Ambagala (Canada) – Member

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Dr Cristóbal Zepeda (United States of America) – President

3. **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, 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.

She reported that all details had been sent to the Delegates in advance.

The Regional Commission unanimously approved the proposal.

4. **Discussion on regional positions for WOAHA General Session**

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.

5. **WOAHA Incident Management System**

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.

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.

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.

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.

6. **Closing**

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)

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 Melón, 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 and 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 Melón)

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 Melón)/Zoom poll

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

Agenda

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 8:30 a.m. – 8:35 a.m. | Adoption of the agenda (Dr Ximena Melón, 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 Melón) |
| 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 Melón) |
| 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 Melón) |

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

Session 1 (virtual)

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)

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.

1. **Adoption of the Agenda**

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

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

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 WOAAH Delegates and representatives of 24 Members of the Region and senior officers from 10 regional, international and national organisations.

She referred to four key points underscored by the Conference: 1) the crucial role WOAAH 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 WOAAH 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 WOAAH and its Members to be leaders in the global health agenda.

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.

3. 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, 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 WOAAH Director General.

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

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)'

5. 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)

The Regional Commission selected the following three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the WOAAH 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.

6. 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, 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).

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

Dr Susanne Münstermann, WOAAH 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.

8. **2025 Budgeted Work Programme – Income Estimates and Contribution Scale**

Mr Xavier Pairault, WOAHA Director of Administration, explained the rationale behind the proposal of increasing the statutory contributions rates by 6.9% for 2025.

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%.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

Mr Szabo 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.

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.

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.

10. **WOAH Regions' kiosk**

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

11. **Elections of the Specialist Commissions**

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.

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.

Dr Arroyo closed her intervention by reminding the Delegates of their roles during each step of the elections.

12. **Elections: voting modalities and quorum**

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.

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

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.

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:

The Regional Commission agreed on the following proposals for positions:

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

14. Selection of additional member of Regional Core Group (RCG)

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.

15. Closing

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

Session 2 (face to face)

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

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.

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.

1. **Adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda, described in the Annex, was unanimously adopted.

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

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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

He reported that all details had been sent to the Delegates in advance.

The proposal was approved unanimously by the Regional Commission.

4. **Discussion on regional positions for WOAHA General Session**

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)'.

5. **Closing**

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)

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 and 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)

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)

Report of the Meeting of the Regional Commission for Europe

Session 1 (virtual)

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, The 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).

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.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

3. **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, 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.

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.

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

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

5. **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).**

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

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

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.

7. **2025 Budgeted Work Programme – Income Estimates and Contribution Scale**

Mr Xavier Pairault, WOAAH Director of Administration, explained the rationale behind the proposal of increasing the statutory contributions rates by 6.9% for 2025.

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%.

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.

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.

8. Elections of the Specialist Commissions

Dr Francois Caya presented on behalf of Dr Monserrat Arroyo, WOAHA Deputy Director General.

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.

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.

Dr Caya closed his intervention by reminding the Delegates of their roles during each step of the elections.

9. Elections: voting modalities and quorum

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.

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.

10. Elections: information about candidates for the Council

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.

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)

11. Elections: selection of candidates for the Bureau

Dr Maris Balodis chaired the discussion regarding the selection of candidates for the Bureau. Dr Plavsic explained the election process.

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)

12. Elections: selection of candidates for the Specialist Commissions

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.

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

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.

13. **Closing**

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

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

Session 2 (face to face)

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

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, The Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia,, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Uzbekistan.

Observers:

European Commission.

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

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the annex was unanimously adopted.

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

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 WOAHP 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.

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

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.

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.

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.

4. **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 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

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.

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

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.

6. **Election of Members of new Steering Group**

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.

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

7. **Elections: selection of candidates for the Specialist Commissions**

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.

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

8. **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 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.

9. **Any Other Business**

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.

10. **Closing**

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)

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 and 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)

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, WOAHS 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

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

Session 1 (virtual)

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)

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

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

2. Analysis and evaluation of WOA's institutional, technical, and financial governance

Dr François Caya, WOA's Chief of Staff, introduced Mr Eelco Szabo, a legal and governance consultant and part of a consortium mandated by WOA to undertake what is commonly referred to as the external review of WOA's Basic Texts.

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 WOA'. This external review, conducted over nine months, meticulously examined the foundational treaty, Basic Texts, numerous resolutions, and conducted interviews and workshops with members of WOA'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.

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 WOA's governance structures. For instance, institutional governance discussed could include revisiting the roles and responsibilities of WOA'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.

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.

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.

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

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 WOAHA Delegates and representatives of 10 Members of the Region and senior officers from 8 regional, international, and national organisations and institutions.

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 Bank to support activities in the Middle East region that will ensure the intensification of WOAHA activities in the region and therefore help to position it as a global leader in animal health and biosecurity.

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.

4. **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, 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 WOAHA Director General.

5. **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**

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)’

6. **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)**

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.

7. **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**

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.

He provided a short presentation about CLAR and reported that all details had been sent to the Delegates in advance.

The proposal was approved unanimously by the Regional Commission.

8. **2025 Budgeted Work Programme – Income Estimates and Contribution Scale**

Mr Xavier Pairault, WOAAH Director of Administration, explained the rationale behind the proposal of increasing the statutory contributions rates by 6.9% for 2025.

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%.

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](#).

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.

9. **WOAH Regions' kiosk**

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

10. **Elections of the Specialist Commissions**

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.

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.

Dr Arroyo closed her intervention by reminding the Delegates of their roles during each step of the elections.

11. **Elections: voting modalities and quorum**

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.

12. **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, chaired the discussion regarding the proposal of candidates to be presented to the World Assembly for election on Tuesday 28 May.

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.

13. Closing

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

Session 2 (face to face)

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

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, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and United Arab Emirates

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

1. **Adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda, described in the Annex, was unanimously adopted.

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

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 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.

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

Dr Holy Teneg Akwar, Deputy Head of WOAHA 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.

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.

Dr Akwar indicated that the Quadripartite organisations (FAO, UNEP, WHO, WOAHA) 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.

He then informed the assembled that WOAHA 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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Dr Al Majali, Member of Jordan Delegation, and Dr Noroozi Mojtaba, Delegate for Iran, asked for further details regarding vaccination efficiency on roaming dogs.

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

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.

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.

6. **Any other business**

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.

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.

7. **Closing**

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)

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 and 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)

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