

90 SG/9 B

Reports
of the Meetings of the Regional Commissions
held in the framework of the 90th General Session
15-17 May 2023

Contents

		Page
90 SG/9B/AF	Report of the Meeting of the Regional Commission for Africa.....	1
90 SG/9B/AM	Report of the Meeting of the Regional Commission for the Americas	9
90 SG/9B/AS	Report of the Meeting of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania	16
90 SG/9B/EU	Report of the Meeting of the Regional Commission for Europe	22
90 SG/9B/ME	Report of the Meeting of the Regional Commission for the Middle East.....	30

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

15 May 2023

The Regional Commission for Africa met by videoconference on 15 May 2023 at 1:00 p.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by up to 135 participants, including Delegates and observers from 35 Members of the Commission, and representatives from 15 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo (Rep. of the ~), Congo (Dem. Rep. of the ~), Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Gabon, Guinea, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan (Rep. of), Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

International/regional organisations: AU-IBAR¹, AU-PANVAC², COMESA³, ECCAS (RAHC)⁴, ECOWAS (RAHC)⁵, EISMV⁶, GARC⁷, GALVmed⁸, ICIPE⁹, ICRC¹⁰, ILRI¹¹, INTERPOL, Mott MacDonald (Fleming Fund), The Brooke, WAEMU¹².

Observers: Chairpersons and members of the Biological Standards Commission and the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

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 AU-IBAR: African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
 - ² AU-PANVAC : African Union Panafrican Veterinary Vaccines Centre
 - ³ COMESA : Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
 - ⁴ ECCAS (RAHC): Economic Community of Central African States (Regional Animal Health Centre)
 - ⁵ ECOWAS (RAHC): Economic Community of West African States (Regional Animal Health Centre)
 - ⁶ EISMV : *Ecole Inter-Etats de Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires*
 - ⁷ GARC : Global Alliance for Rabies Control
 - ⁸ GALVmed : Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines
 - ⁹ ICIPE: International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology
 - ¹⁰ ICRC: International Committee of the Red Cross
 - ¹¹ ILRI : International Livestock Research Institute
 - ¹² WAEMU: West African Economic and Monetary Union

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

2. Outcomes of the 25th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa held in Gaborone, Botswana, from 21 to 24 February 2023

Dr Albertina Shilongo, Vice President of the of the Regional Commission for Africa and Delegate for Namibia, briefly described the main conclusions from the topics presented and discussed during the 25th Conference of the Regional Commission which was attended by a total of 113 participants, comprising WOAHA Delegates and representatives of 43 Members of the Region and senior officers from 15 regional, international, and national organisations and institutions.

She highlighted, among others: I) WOAHA Delegates are key in the role of advocating with high level authorities and stakeholders on the importance of WOAHA mission and the need to invest in Veterinary Services; II) PPR and Rabies (main technical items of the conference) discussions highlighted that buy-in and commitment from Members including from policymakers and authorities at national and also at subregional levels are key to achieve eradication; III) Members are encouraged to make efforts to continue their commitment to disease surveillance and to improve notification of diseases in compliance with the *Terrestrial Code* so to ensure prevention and control of diseases of high impact in the Region; IV) Good understanding of the socio-economic impacts of transboundary animal disease is key in supporting the investment case for risk management through implementation of WOAHA's international standards; V) It is key for Members to ensure leadership at national level so that the animal health sector be well involved in the One Health agenda, responsibilities regarding One Health shared well between the relevant parties, and contribution of the Veterinary Services to the global health be well recognised by other relevant actors and in particular by the human health counterparts; VI) WOAHA has provided and will continue to support with the necessary tools for Members to adapt them at national level; VII) A coordinated and harmonised approach at regional and subregional levels is crucial for diseases control, VIII) Zoonoses and other threats at the livestock-wildlife-human interface still remains a priority for Africa in light of national, regional, and global health security.

Finally, she reminded the Delegates that two recommendations regarding the two technical items of the Conference (TI 1: Eradication of peste des petits ruminants (PPR), and TI 2: Elimination of dog-transmitted human rabies from Africa by 2030 - national strategies, legal frameworks, tools to track progress) were adopted by the Regional Commission. Both recommendations will be presented to the World Assembly for endorsement.

3. Confirmation of the venue of the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2025

Dr Alemayehu Mekonnen, on behalf of Dr Fikru Regassa Gari, Delegate of Ethiopia, reiterated his country's offer to host the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa in February 2025. Exact dates will be defined at a later stage in consultation with WOAHA Director General.

4. Proposal of a Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa:

“Control and eradication of CBPP in Africa: Challenges and Strategies for a CBPP Free Africa”

5. 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)

The Regional Commission proposed the following three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the WOAHA through various means:

1. "Ageing veterinary profession workforce, workforce development, community-based animal health workers"
2. "Climate change, green-house gas emissions from livestock"
3. "Concept of Veterinary Services as essential services during disasters or lockdowns"

6. Information regarding the change of name of the Subregional Representation for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa

Dr Jean-Phillipe Dop, WOAHA Deputy Director General, Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities, explained the process regarding the proposal to be presented via a resolution for adoption by the World Assembly of Delegates, to change the name of the Subregional Representation in Kenya currently referred as "Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa" to be named "Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa". This is to align the name of the representation with its geographical scope.

7. Presentation by AU-IBAR: Regional perspective for the control of animal diseases

Dr Nick Nwankpa, the acting Director of AU-IBAR, introduced the regional perspective for the control of animal diseases by highlighting the key animal health strategies and guiding frameworks in the Africa Region. The animal health programmes highlighted by Dr Nwankpa included the development of the Pan African PPR Eradication Programme with a resource mobilisation framework that assigns the contribution of Members at 30%, the contribution of the European Union at 30% and other development partners at 40% based on Nairobi Declaration and aligning it with the PPR Global Eradication Programme Blueprint. Arising from the Pan African PPR Eradication Programme, an "Action Document for EU support to the Eradication of PPR (Peste des Petits Ruminants) from Africa" has been developed and submitted for funding to the EU with AU-PANVAC, WOAHA and FAO as partners. Other Africa Region activities highlighted include a focus on disease-specific issues regarding Rabies, African Swine Fever, and Avian influenza along with activities on the thematic areas of animal welfare, antimicrobial resistance, animal health to facilitate trade, support to veterinary legislation, and One Health.

Finally, Dr Nwankpa mentioned the importance of coordination and harmonisation of regional animal health activities in the framework of the GF-TADs and RAHNS which AU-IBAR has been supporting.

8. Presentation by AU-PANVAC: Contribution of AU-PANVAC in the control of animal diseases

Dr Charles Bodjo, from AU-PANVAC, presented AU-PANVAC work as WOAHA Collaborating Centre for the quality control of veterinary vaccines and a FAO reference centre for technical assistance in quality control of veterinary vaccines. He reminded the participants of the institution's core mandate highlighting, among others, the provision of international independent quality control of veterinary vaccines produced or imported into Africa, and the production of essential diagnostic services like the PPR ELISA kit, diagnostic and laboratory kits for CCPP and CCPP vaccine. In addition to provision of quality testing of veterinary vaccines, AU-PANVAC also supports the capacity building for laboratories to improve their quality of vaccines, the training on shipment of infectious material, and the one health activities through provision of COVID-19 testing services.

He also mentioned that, following the site inspection by the Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee (JAC), it was recommended in January 2023, to extend the designation of AU-PANVAC to an FAO-WOAH Rinderpest Holding Facility Categories A and B until 31 May 2026. It was clarified that AU-PANVAC is not designated as a Rinderpest sequestration centre but a holding facility. Additionally, he informed that, considering bio-risk management is of high priority for AU-PANVAC, with the support of US-DTRA and SANDIA, its staff have been trained in Bio-Risk management.

He concluded mentioning that to meet the growing demand, the design of a new laboratory complex began in 2018 and is expected to be completed in August 2023 thanks to the support of DTRA.

9. The Pandemic Fund

Ms. Tagliaro, Head of WOAHA's Engagement & Investment Department, presented the Fund for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response (Pandemic Fund). She started her presentation by emphasising the critical role Veterinary Services play in preventing future pandemics through an application of the One Health approach. She underscored the cost benefit of investing in prevention, with the estimated annual cost of prevention representing merely 30% of the cost of preparedness, corresponding to less than 1% of the cost of the COVID-19 pandemic.

She introduced the Pandemic Fund including its Theory of Change, structure, and operating processes. She centered her presentation on first call for expressions of interest and associated call for proposals, reminding the Commission of the priority topics (surveillance and early warning, laboratory systems, One Health workforces capacity development), submission requirements and deadlines. She invited participants to access the Pandemic Fund [website](#) for more information.

10. Public-Private Partnerships in the veterinary domain in Africa

Dr Rahul Srivastava from WOAAH Capacity Building Department stated that Public-private partnership (PPP) is a joint approach in which the public and private sectors agree on responsibilities and share resources and risks to achieve common objectives that sustainably deliver benefits.

He said that in consideration of the essential and often under-utilised role of PPP in the veterinary domain, WOAAH has developed several tools, most notably the PPP Handbook, PPP e-learning courses and PPP Database, to accompany both public and private stakeholders at national, regional or global levels in the establishment of impactful and sustainable partnerships.

Finally he mentioned that WOAAH encourages the participation of public and private stakeholders in its main activities, among which are standard setting and implementation guidelines, training, emergency preparedness and response guidance, etc. The enabling environment for the development, governance, impact, and sustainability of PPP can be considered throughout the PVS Pathway Cycle, at the Evaluation stage (Evaluation and Evaluation Follow-Up missions), during the planning stage (Gap Analysis, Strategic Planning) and through specific PVS Targeted Support activities. Therefore, WOAAH has developed PPP Targeted Support as a National Workshop to build partnership capacities of relevant Public and Private stakeholders. PPP mission can be requested by countries who had implemented a PVS evaluation, follow-up or Gap analysis in the last five years. This support is developed during face-to-face national workshops where participants analyse i) enabling factors for PPP implementation, ii) identification of PPP type to be established, iii) resources for planning and implement the PPP type chosen and iv) monitoring and evaluation of the PPP.

Ms. Jennifer Lasley, from the Capacity Building Department, announced briefly the PVS Information System which is under development and targeted for global launch at the 100th anniversary which will be commemorated during the 2024 General Session. She underlined the benefits for members expected with the new system and encouraged Delegates to visit the PVS Kiosk during the General Session.

Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela thanked the Delegates who were no longer Delegates for their valuable services and contributions to the Organisation and welcomed the new Delegates appointed since 2022 annual meeting. He paid homage to the Delegate of Egypt, Prof. Abdelhakim Mahmoud Mohamed Ali, who passed away in the late 2022.

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

11. Financial Summary Report (related SG financial documents)

Mr Xavier Pairault, WOAAH Director of Administration, briefly explained the rationale behind the proposal of increasing the statutory contributions rates by 15% for 2024. His presentation was a summary of the financial report available on the GS website.

He reminded the meeting 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) A Council special meeting held in December 2021 that supported the proposal presented and finally accepted by the Assembly in 2022 for increasing the statutory contributions of 30% over 2023 – 2025 period, 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. Such rational remains relevant for 2023 with a key additional issue, the drastic deterioration of the economic situation.

The Director of Administration explained that since the adoption of resolution 15/2018, OECD Consumer price index of the year N-1 is taken into account for the contribution of the year N+1. Therefore 2024 minimum increase would be +9,6% at least.

Comparing the OECD-Total CPI in the last year's period against the annual increase of statutory contributions, it is evident that WOAAH increase rates since 2019 had been effectively extremely low (= - 0,3%).

Referring to WOAAH's 2024 Budgeted Work Programme preparation, Mr Pairault explained that the impact of high inflation across all goods and services, coupled with the energy crisis, has already taken a toll on WOAAH's capacity to deliver activities. The inflation rate will nullify and consume the positive gains from the increased statutory contributions. Consequently, at the February 2023 meeting, the Council unanimously agreed to request the Membership to increase 2024 statutory contributions by 15% to cushion the impact of inflation. Such increase leads to a 9.6% of effective increase over a 6-year period and is used to cover fixed and recurring costs as well as key investments such as the digital transformation, status recognition activities and Regional Offices functioning.

The Director of Administration concluded highlighting that statutory and extraordinary contributions through the Regular Budget are a fundamental source of funding and are essential for the functioning of the Organisation. It provides a level of funding reliability and allows resources to be assigned and aligned with the activities and strategic plans of the Organisation. They are essential for WOAAH's financial sustainability.

12. Facilitated access to the voting platform

Mr Rodney De Souza, Head of WOAAH Legal Affairs Unit, reminded Delegates that, in the context of the 90th General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates voting on some resolutions and partial elections will be held online using two voting platforms, Platform 1 to vote for some resolutions in advance, and Platform 2 to vote during the partial elections.

Similar to 2022, these two platforms will be managed by the service provider 'UK Engage'. However, unlike the previous year, the voting platforms will only be accessible through the Delegate Portal. Delegates received a message from VotingSupport@woah.org with such information and how to access the platforms.

Within the Delegate Portal, a link will be displayed for each of the voting platforms. Each link is unique and will be automatically authenticated.

Delegates with no right to vote will not see platform 1 but it is key for them to login for platform 2 for partial elections and even if they cannot vote it is important to ensure the quorum.

Early votes for resolutions must be cast online (Platform 1) from 15 May to 22 May (23:59 CEST).

Partial election voting will be online (Platform 2) and will take place on Thursday 25 May at 11:30 CEST at the General Session venue. Only Delegates present in the room will be able to vote.

Delegates will be able to access the links by using their own electronic devices.

Delegates need to validate the access to the Delegates Portal following instructions sent through an automatically generated email from 'Microsoft Invitations on behalf of the WOAH'. This email contains information on how to validate access to the Delegate Portal.

Delegates were encouraged to validate their access to the Portal as soon as possible to ensure having access to the online voting platforms.

Dr Roland Xolani Dlamini, Delegate of Eswatini, reminded all fellow Delegates about the importance of paying and being up to date on their statutory contributions in order to be able to vote which will be more critical in 2024, and Dr Henrique Gimi, Delegate of Angola, requested the addition of Spanish as a third working language for the Africa Region, in order to benefit non-English and non-French speaking Members.

13. Closing

The meeting officially ended at 4.10 pm.

Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela, thanked all for their active participation, and also the interpreters and technical people who organised the meeting successfully.

**MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

15 May 2023

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Outcomes of the 25th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa held in Gaborone, Botswana, from 21 to 24 February 2023
3. Confirmation of the venue of the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2025
4. Proposal of a Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa
5. Proposal of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOAHP through various means (Scientific Review, Newsletter, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting)
6. Information regarding the change of name of the Subregional Representation for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa
7. Presentation by AU-IBAR: Regional perspective for the control of animal diseases
8. Presentation by AU-PANVAC: Contribution of AU-PANVAC in the control of animal diseases
9. The Pandemic Fund
10. Public-Private Partnerships in the veterinary domain in Africa

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

11. Financial Summary Report (related SG financial documents)
12. Facilitated access to the voting platform
13. Closing

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

Paris, 16 May 2023

The Regional Commission for the Americas met by videoconference on 16 May 2023 at 4:00 p.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 102 participants, including Delegates and observers from 26 Members of the Commission and representatives from 10 International or Regional Organisations:

Members of the Commission: Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao, Dominican Rep, Ecuador, El Salvador, United States of America, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, and Uruguay

International/Regional Organisations: ALA¹, CaribVET², CVP³, Feedlatina⁴, HealthforAnimals⁵ ICFAW⁶, IICA⁷, OIRSA⁸, SG-CAN⁹ y WRO¹⁰.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Wilmer José Juárez Juárez, President of the Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of Nicaragua, supported by Dr Luis Osvaldo Barcos, Regional Representative for the Americas, and Dr Catya Martínez Rivas, Subregional Representative for Central America.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

¹ ALA: Latin American Poultry Association

² CaribVET: Caribbean Animal Health Network

³ CVP: Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone

⁴ Feedlatina: association of Latin American and Caribbean feed industry. Feedlatina

⁵ HealthforAnimals: Global animal health association

⁶ ICFAW: Coalition of international global animal welfare organizations

⁷ IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

⁸ OIRSA: International Regional Organisation for Plant and Animal Health

⁹ SG-CAN: General Secretariat of the Andean Community

¹⁰ WRO: World Renderers Organization

2. Information regarding the change of name of the Sub-Regional Representation for Central America

Dr Jean-Phillipe Dop, WOAHA Deputy Director General, Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities, explained the process regarding the proposal to be presented via a resolution for adoption by the World Assembly of Delegates to change the name of the Subregional Representation in Panama currently referred as “Sub-Regional Representation for Central America” to be named “Sub-Regional Representation for Central America and the Caribbean”. This is to align the name of the representation with its geographical scope.

The Delegates of the Americas, and in particular the Members of the Caribbean Sub-region, agreed to the proposal.

3. Outcomes of the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas, held virtually on 8 and 9 November 2022

Dr Rosemary Sifford, Secretary General of the Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of the United States of America, presented a short summary of the discussions held during the Regional Conference, highlighting *inter alia*, the definition of the work priorities for the region, and emphasising the convergence of actions to improve animal health and welfare and reduce antimicrobial resistance, while seeking to achieve sustainable food production.

She then elaborated on other topics discussed during the Regional Conference, including ongoing projects on antimicrobial resistance and high health, high performances (HHP) horses, as well as the actions carried out under the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) and its various Working Groups focusing on African Swine Fever and Avian Influenza.

She continued by outlining the strategic actions planned for aquatic animals and wildlife, as issues that have a transverse impact on animal health and welfare, and human populations.

Dr Sifford closed by saying that the Americas Region had not only succeeded in defining priorities, but also in prioritising its organisational efforts to tackle the challenges in a coordinated and efficient manner.

4. Confirmation of the venue of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas, to be held in November 2024

Eng. Wilson Patricio Almeida Granja, Delegate of Ecuador, reiterated his country’s offer to host the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas in November 2024. He added that it is hoped to hold the event in the Galapagos Islands. Exact dates will be defined at a later stage in consultation with WOAHA Director General.

5. Proposal of a Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas:

“Current scenario of critical veterinary products”

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

The Regional Commission proposed the following three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the WOAAH through various means:

1. "Avian influenza: vaccination programs, types of vaccines, trade restrictions, impact on species other than poultry and possible pandemic"
2. "Vaccine development, use and strategies"
3. "Maintenance of surveillance/ animal health testing in active war zones and/or mass civil unrest"
4. "Worldwide scenario of critical veterinary products"

7. Application from USA, Brazil and Mexico for a WOAAH Collaborating Centre consortium on Economics of Animal Health

Dr Rosemary Sifford presented a proposal to the Regional Commission for a consortium of WOAAH Collaborating Centres on the Economics of Animal Health to be led by Kansas State University. The partners are the Department of Economics, Management and Sociology of the University of São Paulo (Brazil), the Faculty of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine of the University of Brasília (Brazil), the Department of Economics, Management and Rural Development of the Faculty of Veterinary and Zoological Medicine of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (Mexico), and the Economic Sciences Faculty of the Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health of Washington State University (United States of America).

She presented an overview of the consortium and reported that full details had been sent to the Delegates in advance.

Both Dr Eduardo de Azevedo Pedrosa Cunha, Delegate of Brazil, and Dr Fernando Rivera Espinoza, on behalf of the Delegate of Mexico, expressed their countries' commitment to this initiative, convinced that this Collaborating Centre will contribute with strategic benefits for progress in the region, by providing proven, globally validated knowledge and methodologies to enhance decision-making and the effectiveness of actions implemented by the Veterinary Services and their strategic allies.

The Commission approved this proposal.

8. Request of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to become a WOAAH Member

Dr Wilmer Juárez Juárez informed the participants of the application by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for accession as a WOAAH Member Country. This request has been approved by the Council and will be submitted to the World Assembly of Delegates for approval. He added that this was in line with the objective of increasing the number of Caribbean Members of WOAAH.

9. Outcomes of the Second meeting of the GF-TADs Standing Group of Experts on Avian Influenza (SGE-AI)

Dr Ximena Melon, Vice-President of the Regional Commission and Delegate of Argentina, presented the main topics of the meeting's Recommendations, published on the Regional Representation website.

She highlighted several key issues such as the importance of applying WOAAH Standards, primarily to avoid unnecessary trade barriers, addressing the transparency and reporting of Avian Influenza cases, be they high or low pathogenic forms and in domestic and wild animals, in addition to vaccination. Furthermore, she stressed the importance of having protocols for applying zoning and compartmentalisation systems, as well as self-declaration of health status.

As regards vaccination, she pointed out that the Recommendations stress the need to have programmes based on risks and national realities, using high quality antigenically adapted and regularly checked vaccines. She emphasised the importance of conducting period reviews of vaccination plans, in line with epidemiological surveillance to guarantee disease-free status where vaccination is administered.

10. Relevant activities of the Regional and Sub-Regional Representation. Summary of the meeting of the Bureau of the Regional Commission held in September 2022

Dr Catya Martinez, Sub-regional Representative for Central America, presented the findings of the meeting, which defined the basis for drawing up action plans and regional strategies for animal welfare and aquatic animal health, with the involvement of the various sub-regions and Bureau Members.

In addition, she mentioned the proposal made by the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations to support the creation of a discussion platform where Members can exchange views on the WOAAH Standards' review process and any shared regional positions, the induction and training of recently appointed Delegates and their National Focal Points, all intended to ensure continuous improvement of regional communications.

Lastly, she listed the region's ongoing projects, highlighting those that address Antimicrobial Resistance, HHP horses and the GF-TADs, expressing her gratitude to the Members and Regional and Sub-Regional Organisations.

Ms. Jennifer Lasley, from the Capacity Building Department, announced briefly the PVS Information System which is under development and targeted for global launch at the 100th anniversary which will be commemorated during the 2024 General Session. She underlined the benefits for members expected with the new system and encouraged Delegates to visit the PVS Kiosk during the General Session.

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

11. Financial Summary Report (related SG financial documents)

Mr Xavier Pairault, WOAAH Director of Administration, briefly explained the rationale behind the proposal of increasing the statutory contributions rates by 15% for 2024. His presentation was a summary of the financial report available on the GS website.

He reminded the meeting 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) A Council special meeting held in December 2021 that supported the proposal presented and finally accepted by the Assembly in 2022 for increasing the statutory contributions of 30% over 2023 – 2025 period, 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. Such rationale remains relevant for 2023 with a key additional issue, the drastic deterioration of the economic situation.

The Director of Administration explained that since the adoption of resolution 15/2018, OECD Consumer price index of the year N-1 is taken into account for the contribution of the year N+1. Therefore 2024 minimum increase would be +9,6% at least.

Comparing the OECD-Total CPI in the last year's period against the annual increase of statutory contributions, it is evident that WOHAI increase rates since 2019 had been effectively extremely low (= - 0,3%).

Referring to WOHAI's 2024 Budgeted Work Programme preparation, Mr Pairault explained that the impact of high inflation across all goods and services, coupled with the energy crisis, has already taken a toll on WOHAI's capacity to deliver activities. The inflation rate will nullify and consume the positive gains from the increased statutory contributions. Consequently, at the February 2023 meeting, the Council unanimously agreed to request the Membership to increase 2024 statutory contributions by 15% to cushion the impact of inflation. Such increase leads to a 9.6% of effective increase over a 6-year period and is used to cover fixed and recurring costs as well as key investments such as the digital transformation, status recognition activities and Regional Offices functioning.

The Director of Administration concluded highlighting that statutory and extraordinary contributions through the Regular Budget are a fundamental source of funding and are essential for the functioning of the Organisation. It provides a level of funding reliability and allows resources to be assigned and aligned with the activities and strategic plans of the Organisation. They are essential for WOHAI's financial sustainability.

12. Facilitated access to the voting platform

Ms Lisa Brouard from Legal Affairs Unit reminded Delegates that, in the context of the 90th General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates voting on some resolutions and partial elections will be held online using two voting platforms, Platform 1 to vote for some resolutions in advance, and Platform 2 to vote during the partial elections.

Similar to 2022, these two platforms will be managed by the service provider 'UK Engage'. However, unlike the previous year, the voting platforms will only be accessible through the Delegate Portal. Delegates received a message from VotingSupport@woah.org with such information and how to access the platforms.

Within the Delegate Portal, a link will be displayed for each of the voting platforms. Each link is unique and will be automatically authenticated.

Delegates with no right to vote will not see platform 1 but it is key for them to login for platform 2 for partial elections and even if they cannot vote it is important to ensure the quorum.

Early votes for resolutions must be cast online (Platform 1) from 15 May to 22 May (23:59 CEST).

Partial election voting will be online (Platform 2) and will take place on Thursday 25 May at 11:30 CEST at the General Session venue. Only Delegates present in the room will be able to vote.

Delegates will be able to access the links by using their own electronic devices.

Delegates need to validate the access to the Delegates Portal following instructions sent through an automatically generated email from 'Microsoft Invitations on behalf of the WOHAI'. This email contains information on how to validate access to the Delegate Portal.

Delegates were encouraged to validate their access to the Portal as soon as possible to ensure having access to the online voting platforms.

13. Proposal of a Member of the Regional Commission for the Americas to the position of “Member of the Council” and of a Member for the Bureau of the Regional Commission

Dr Hugo Idoyaga, President of the World Assembly of Delegates and Delegate of Paraguay, reminded participants that the Delegate of Cuba had stepped down, leaving vacant the position of Members of the Council which required a partial election to be held.

Following a discussion involving all Delegates present in the meeting, Dr Wilmer José Juárez Juárez, Delegate of Nicaragua, was proposed as Member of the Council for a one-year period.

Such position will last for one year period until the election for the next three-year mandate of the Council, which will be held in May 2024.

There followed a discussion on the various nominations to cover the vacancy at the Regional Commission Bureau, to be composed as follows:

President:	Dr Ximena Melón (Argentina)
Vice president:	Dr Rosemary Sifford (United States of America)
Vice president:	Dr Arnold Dwarkasing (Curacao)
General Secretary:	Dr Rafael Enrique Rodríguez Alvarado (Honduras)

The above will remain in office for one year, until the elections for the next three-year mandate of the Regional Commission in May 2024.

These proposals will be presented to the World Assembly for election.

14. Closing

The meeting officially ended at 7:15 p.m. CEST.

**MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

Paris, 16 May 2023

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Information regarding the change of name of the Sub-Regional Representation for Central America
3. Outcomes of the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas, held virtually on 8 and 9 November 2022
4. Confirmation of the venue of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas, to be held in November 2024
5. Proposal of a Technical Item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas
6. Proposal of strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOAAH through various means (Scientific Review, Newsletter, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting)
7. Application from USA, Brazil and Mexico for a WOAAH Collaborating Centre consortium on Economics of Animal Health
8. Request of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to become a WOAAH Member
9. Outcomes of the Second meeting of the GF-TADs Standing Group of Experts on Avian Influenza (SGE-AI)
10. Relevant activities of the Regional and Sub-Regional Representation. Summary of the meeting of the Bureau of the Regional Commission held in September 2022

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

11. Financial Summary Report (related SG financial documents)
12. Facilitated access to the voting platform
13. Proposal of a Member of the Regional Commission for the Americas to the position of “Member of the Council” and of a Member for the Bureau of the Regional Commission
14. Closing

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR
ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

15 May 2023

The Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met by videoconference on 15 May 2023, at 7:00 a.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 52 participants, including Delegates from 20 Members of the Commission, and representatives from 4 International and Regional Organisations:

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

Observers: Hong Kong SAR, Members of the WOAHA Specialist Commissions and Working Groups

International/regional organisations: ICAFW¹, Pacific Community, SAARC², and WWF³

The meeting was chaired by Dr Baoxu Huang, President of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and Delegate of China (PR of), accompanied by Dr Hirofumi Kugita, Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

2. Organisation of the 33rd Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in November 2023

Ms Alka Upadhyaya, Delegate of India, confirmed that her country was willing and honoured to hold this important regional event and invited all Delegates to attend the conference, which would be held in New Delhi, from 13 to 17 November 2023.

She reported briefly on the various arrangements India had made to start organising the conference. Dr Alka Upadhyaya provided general information about the event, assuring the participants invitations as well as all key details would be sent in a timely manner.

¹ ICAFW: International Coalition for Animal Welfare

² SAARC: South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

³ WWF: World Wide Fund for Nature

3. Information regarding the change of the name of the Regional Commission

Dr Jean-Phillipe Dop, WOAHA Deputy Director General, Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities, explained the process regarding the proposal to be presented via a resolution for adoption by the World Assembly of Delegates, to change the name of the Regional Commission currently referred as “Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania” to be named “Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific”. This is to harmonise the name of the Commission with the name of WOAHA Regional Representation.

4. Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 33rd Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item (without questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 33rd Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania:

“One Health approaches to addressing risk: Case studies and discussions focussed on AI with the objective of implementing effective/efficient surveillance and data sharing across sectors including wildlife and the environment”.

The idea is to use the outcome of this work to improve capacity and capability in the region for prevention, control, surveillance, vaccination, and risk based messaging for public awareness for AI.”

5. 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)

The Regional Commission proposed the following three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the WOAHA through various means:

1. “Strategies for prevention and control of ASF, including biosecurity measures, surveillance, epidemiological investigation to identify incursion pathways to farms, and compensation mechanisms.”
2. “Boosting One Health research on AMR and zoonoses of pandemic potential to enhance coordination among different stakeholders, including private-public-partnership for better preparedness.”
3. “International cooperation for border control measures – how to address illegal or informal cross-border trade of commercial and non-commercial animal products via postal or courier services and carry-on baggage.”

6. Discussion on regional positions for WOAHA General Session

Dr Ye Tun Win, Secretary General of the Regional Commission for Asia, Far East and Oceania and Delegate of Myanmar, led the discussion on four proposals from Members to be presented during the General Session.

One proposal was unanimously accepted as a regional position for WOAHA General Session: support for the Report of Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission, February 2023, addition in Chapter 8.8 *Infection with foot and mouth disease virus* with the new Article 8.8.4bis on compartment free from foot and mouth disease (FMD) where vaccination is practised.

Members may present other proposals as interventions during the General Session, but not as a regional position.

7. Update on the Regional GF-TADs Strategy for Asia and the Pacific for 2023-2027 and upcoming work plan

Dr Hnin Thidar Myint, Project Coordinator at WOA Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific, outlined the history and governance of the Regional GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific, and gave an update of the Regional GF-TADs Strategy. The 12th Regional GF-TADs Steering Committee meeting was held in Tokyo in February 2023, when the list of regional priority diseases was updated to include: FMD, PPR, ASF and other swine diseases (CSF, PRRS, PED), AI, and LSD. The two-year workplan and way forward were presented.

Further information can be found on the regional WOA website: <https://rr-asia.woah.org/en/events/12th-fao-woah-regional-steering-committee-meeting-of-gf-tads-for-asia-and-the-pacific/>.

8. Update on regional activities regarding One Health, including rabies, AMR and Wildlife

Dr Kinzang Dukpa, Regional Project Coordinator at WOA Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific, introduced WOA's One Health actions at the global level before providing detail on regional activities on One Health, rabies, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), food safety, neglected parasitic zoonoses, wildlife health, and strengthening multisectoral collaboration mechanisms, including work done with the Regional Quadripartite (FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOA). He shared the way forward for One Health in the region, with continued investment in collaborative efforts. He informed that there will be a regional Quadripartite meeting from 5 to 8 September, in Bangkok, Thailand.

9. Update on RAWs Advisory Group

Dr Kate Littin, Chair for the RAWs Advisory Group, presented the AFEO Regional Animal Welfare Strategy and gave an update on RAWs membership (recent work has been done on seeking representation from Members). She outlined current and future activities underlining that, since recent reactivation, the Group has been actively restoring activities.

10. Update on WOA engagement and animal health in the Pacific

Dr Maho Urabe, Regional Veterinary Officer at WOA Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific, gave an overview of WOA engagement in the Pacific. Recent opportunities have involved both WOA Members and non-Members, and a consultant is based in Fiji to aid engagement in the sub-region. WOA commitment to the Pacific was highlighted by a visit by Dr Monique Eloit, in March 2023. WOA will continue to promote Member benefits, support sub-regional networks, and strengthen collaborations in the Pacific.

11. Application from Australia for a WOAAH Collaborating Centre on Wildlife Health Risk Management

Dr Mark Schipp, Delegate of Australia, submitted a request to the Regional Commission in order for it to consider Wildlife Health Australia (WHA), in New South Wales, as a WOAAH Collaborating Centre for Wildlife Health Risk Management.

Dr Schipp provided a brief description of the proposed centre and its activities, stating that full details had already been shared with Delegates.

The Regional Commission unanimously approved the proposal submitted by Wildlife Health Australia (WHA).

Ms. Jennifer Lasley, from the Capacity Building Department, announced briefly the PVS Information System which is under development and targeted for global launch at the 100th anniversary which will be commemorated during the 2024 General Session. She underlined the benefits for members expected with the new system and encouraged Delegates to visit the PVS Kiosk during the General Session.

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

12. Financial Summary Report (related SG financial documents)

Mr Xavier Pairault, WOAAH Director of Administration, briefly explained the rationale behind the proposal of increasing the statutory contributions rates by 15% for 2024. His presentation was a summary of the financial report available on the GS website.

He reminded the meeting 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) A Council special meeting held in December 2021 that supported the proposal presented and finally accepted by the Assembly in 2022 for increasing the statutory contributions of 30% over 2023 – 2025 period, 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. Such rationale remains relevant for 2023 with a key additional issue, the drastic deterioration of the economic situation.

The Director of Administration explained that since the adoption of resolution 15/2018, OECD Consumer price index of the year N-1 is taken into account for the contribution of the year N+1. Therefore 2024 minimum increase would be +9,6% at least.

Comparing the OECD-Total CPI in the last year's period against the annual increase of statutory contributions, it is evident that WOAAH increase rates since 2019 had been effectively extremely low (= - 0,3%).

Referring to WOAAH's 2024 Budgeted Work Programme preparation, Mr Pairault explained that the impact of high inflation across all goods and services, coupled with the energy crisis, has already taken a toll on WOAAH's capacity to deliver activities. The inflation rate will nullify and consume the positive gains from the increased statutory contributions. Consequently, at the February 2023 meeting, the Council unanimously agreed to request the Membership to increase 2024 statutory contributions by 15% to cushion the impact of inflation. Such increase leads to a 9.6% of effective increase over a 6-year period and is used to cover fixed and recurring costs as well as key investments such as the digital transformation, status recognition activities and Regional Offices functioning.

The Director of Administration concluded highlighting that statutory and extraordinary contributions through the Regular Budget are a fundamental source of funding and are essential for the functioning of the Organisation. It provides a level of funding reliability and allows resources to be assigned and aligned with the activities and strategic plans of the Organisation. They are essential for WOA's financial sustainability.

13. Facilitated access to the voting platform

Mr Luke York from Legal Affairs Unit reminded Delegates that, in the context of the 90th General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates voting on some resolutions and partial elections will be held online using two voting platforms, Platform 1 to vote for some resolutions in advance, and Platform 2 to vote during the partial elections.

Similar to 2022, these two platforms will be managed by the service provider 'UK Engage'. However, unlike the previous year, the voting platforms will only be accessible through the Delegate Portal. Delegates received a message from VotingSupport@woah.org with such information and how to access the platforms.

Within the Delegate Portal, a link will be displayed for each of the voting platforms. Each link is unique and will be automatically authenticated.

Delegates with no right to vote will not see platform 1 but it is key for them to login for platform 2 for partial elections and even if they cannot vote it is important to ensure the quorum.

Early votes for resolutions must be cast online (Platform 1) from 15 May to 22 May (23:59 CEST).

Partial election voting will be online (Platform 2) and will take place on Thursday 25 May at 11:30 CEST at the General Session venue. Only Delegates present in the room will be able to vote.

Delegates will be able to access the links by using their own electronic devices.

Delegates need to validate the access to the Delegates Portal following instructions sent through an automatically generated email from 'Microsoft Invitations on behalf of the WOA'. This email contains information on how to validate access to the Delegate Portal.

Delegates were encouraged to validate their access to the Portal as soon as possible to ensure having access to the online voting platforms.

14. Closing

The meeting officially ended at 9.58am CEST.

**MEETING OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST
AND OCEANIA**

15 May 2023

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Organisation of the 33rd Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to be held in November 2023
3. Information regarding the change of the name of the Regional Commission
4. Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 33rd Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania
5. Proposal of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOAHP through various means (Scientific Review, Newsletter, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting)
6. Discussion on regional positions for WOAHP General Session
7. Update on the Regional GF-TADs Strategy for Asia and the Pacific for 2023-2027 and upcoming work plan
8. Update on regional activities regarding One Health, including rabies, AMR and Wildlife
9. Update on RAWs Advisory Group
10. Update on WOAHP engagement and animal health in the Pacific
11. Application from Australia for a WOAHP Collaborating Centre on Wildlife Health Risk Management

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

12. Financial Summary Report (related SG financial documents)
13. Facilitated access to the voting platform
14. Closing

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Paris, 17 May 2023

The Regional Commission for Europe met by videoconference on 17 May 2023 at 10:00 a.m. CEST. The meeting was attended by 130 participants, including Delegates and observers from 48 Members of the Commission, and representatives from 9 International or Regional Organisations:

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

International/regional organisations: EC¹, EuFMD², FESASS³, FVE⁴, Health for Animals and Animal Health Europe, IABS⁵, ICFAW/RSPCA⁶, IGC⁷, WAP⁸.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Maris Balodis, President of the Regional Commission for Europe and Delegate of Latvia, accompanied by Dr Budimir Plavsic, WOAHA Regional Representative.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

¹ EC : European Commission

² EuFMD : The European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease

³ FESASS: Federation for animal health and sanitary security

⁴ FVE: Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

⁵ IABS : International alliance for biological standardization

⁶ ICFAW/RSPCA: International Coalition for Animal Welfare/Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

⁷ IGC: International Egg Council

⁸ WAP World Animal Protection

2. Outcomes of the 30th Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe held in Catania, Italy, from 3 to 7 October 2022

Dr Vasili Basiladze, Secretary-general of the Regional Commission for Europe and Delegate of Georgia, briefly described the main conclusions from the topics presented and discussed during the 30th Conference of the Regional Commission which was attended by a total of 153 participants, comprising WOAHA Delegates and representatives of 40 Members of the Region and senior officers from 12 regional, and international organisations.

He highlighted among others: I) It is key for WOAHA and its Members to take positions regarding current key global challenges in order to ensure that the Organisation has a recognised voice beyond the Veterinary Services sector and to avoid being limited to the field of livestock and trade; II) It is not about making politicians to understand the veterinary language but about adapting ourselves to the politician's language to clearly communicate and explain the key role of Veterinary Services' work and contribution to global health, the importance of aligning our work to the work of the public health and environmental authorities; III) Increased transparency of WOAHA Members, as reflected in the number of early warning reports received each year, is welcomed and further efforts should be made in reporting to improve transparency at regional level. IV) WOAHA must continue to provide its Members with the ability to report easily on animal diseases to facilitate transparency, access and analysis. The knowledge generated should support WOAHA, its Members and other stakeholders in the decision-making process and inform efforts to improve system performance; V) Implementing the One Health approach and ensuring multisectoral cooperation in an inclusive way is not easy for Members at national level. It requires a lot of follow up mainly with colleagues from the health sector who have a tendency to forget the animal health sector in key discussions. Thus, increasing visibility at political level as well as presence in the field level are of paramount importance to ensure the sharing of competencies, understanding and awareness regarding the One Health; VI) HPAI was identified as a regional 'priority disease' and regional and global initiatives are being developed such as under the GF-TADs to develop diseases strategies taking into account the evolution of diseases and Members' needs. The strategies must be based on the latest available scientific information and answer to several different criteria, including safety, efficiency, and economic viability; VII) The Regional Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe has identified as one of the priority topics of the Action Plans, the application of WOAHA Animal Welfare Standards during transport, and is consistently supporting Veterinary Services in implementing those standards.

Finally, he reminded that two recommendations were adopted by the Regional Commission regarding the two technical items of the Conference (TI 1: Long distance transport of live animals: WOAHA's standards and best practices including societal perception and communication aspects, and TI 2: Vaccination against HPAI. Both recommendations will be presented to the World Assembly for endorsement.

3. Confirmation of the venue of the 31st Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe to be held in September 2024

Dr Abrar Akbarov, Delegate of Uzbekistan, reiterated his country's offer to host the 31st Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe in Samarkand, from 30 September to 4 October 2024.

Dr Akbarov assured his commitment to making the conference productive and mentioned the establishment of working groups for organisational support.

He expressed hope that participants will not only achieve conference goals but also experience Uzbekistan's rich culture. The opportunity to host the event is acknowledged as an honour, and the Delegate looks forward to welcoming the Regional Commission in September 2024.

4. Proposal of a Technical Item 1 (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 31st Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe

Following several discussions among Delegates, the Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 31st Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe:

“Pandemic preparedness in Europe: the role of Animal Health and Veterinary Services in One Health and pandemic preparedness.”

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

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

1. “Safe trade of embryos”
2. “Roles and responsibilities of veterinary paraprofessionals (i.e. lack of veterinary professionals for official controls)”
3. “Vaccination against HPAI”.

6. Report of activities under the WOAHP Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe

Dr Ulrich Herzog, Vice-President of the Regional Commission for Europe and Delegate of Austria, started with a brief recall about the background and governance mechanism of the WOAHP Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe which is currently implementing its 3rd action plan (2021-2023) focusing on five priority topics (transport of animals, slaughter, dog population management, animal welfare in natural disasters and working equids).

He informed the participants that the next Action Plan, covering the period 2024-2026, currently under development, aims to ensure the continuity with the three previous Action Plans and it focuses on strengthening WOAHP Members` involvement in the development of standards and regional collaboration towards its implementation.

The activities under each priority topic that are planned to be integrated into the next action plan (2024-2026), were presented. In addition, for the next action plan a revision of the theory of change and result framework of the Platform is foreseen with the help of the results from the ongoing external evaluation of the Platform.

He concluded by inviting members of the Regional Commission for Europe to contribute to the development of the next action plan and reminded that a dedicated side event at the 90th General Session will give the opportunity to discuss and exchange on its development. The side event is open to all and is organised with the Standards Department to discuss the Global Animal Welfare Strategy and the Observatory and to share information on the upcoming thematic study on animal transport.

7. 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, shared the following key points:

- The GF-TADs Action Plan (2023-2027) for Europe was revised and adopted, with a focus on animal diseases and activities on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). It will prioritise diseases, promote capacity development, and enhance sustainability.
- GF-TADs events were held, addressing priority diseases like ASF, LSD, FMD, PPR, Rabies, and HPAI. These events emphasised surveillance, collaboration, and disease-specific initiatives.
- Communication efforts include updates on the GF-TADs activities through regional web pages and the WOAAH Twitter account.
- GF-TADs coordinates the work of WOAAH and FAO in Europe, ensuring cooperation through a formalised mechanism and overseen by the Regional Steering Committee. This committee comprises several representatives of Members. The next steps involve the active participation of Members in implementing the Regional Action Plan 2023-2027.
- The European Commission is organising a side event during the 90th General Session, on HPAI vaccination in the EU. The event is open to all participants of the GS.

8. One Health Regional Quadripartite Coordination Mechanism

Dr Budimir Plavsic, WOAAH Regional Representative for Europe, gave a presentation highlighting the activities of One Health at global, regional and national levels.

From the global leadership, he reminded that, among others, a Call to Action was signed on 27th of March, emphasising the commitment of FAO, UNEP, WHO, and WOAAH to One Health. The strategic vision and direction is focused on integrating One Health into global instruments, ensuring sustainable financing, and collaborating with countries to ensure the implementation.

Additionally, he mentioned that the Quadripartite collaboration discussed the implementation status of agreements and actions and the finalisation of the Joint Plan of Action (JPA) implementation guide. Funding and finance were addressed through endorsement of the Resource Mobilisation Action Plan and developing investment opportunities, while advocacy and communication activities aimed to simplify messages and engage a wider stakeholder audience. The High-Level Expert Panel and evidence/knowledge initiatives emphasised collaboration, policy advisory roles, and the importance of workforce development.

Referring to the regional level, Dr Plavsic commented, among others, that key outputs of the One Health collaboration included reduced antimicrobial resistance, improved coordination for zoonotic diseases, enhanced awareness, and strengthened coordination among partners.

The Delegate of France expressed her endorsement of WOAAH's One Health endeavours, emphasising the importance of reinforcing connections with Members. She also highlighted the ongoing efforts by the Veterinary School in Lyon, to establish new training programmes in France, aimed at enhancing One Health competencies among public actors.

Dr Plavsic concluded by emphasising the key role of Members' leadership to ensure the active implementation of the One Health agenda underlining that the forthcoming 90th General Session will provide opportunities to advance in One Health discussions. He acknowledged the valuable educational program offered by the WOAAH Collaborating Centre in Lyon.

9. Global Burden of Animal Diseases (GBADs) - Activities in Europe to estimate the economic impact

Ms Edna Massay Kallon, WOAAH Programme Lead – GBADs, presented on GBADs activities along with Professor Jonathan Rushton, GBADs Programme Director. Among the main points highlighted from the presentation there are:

- The Global Burden of Animal Diseases (GBADs) initiative provides data-driven evidence for disease prioritisation, while also learning from existing expert elicitation processes. A comprehensive 5-year work plan is under development to estimate the regional burden of animal diseases. This complements the strategic plan of WOAAH, particularly focusing on data strategy, training, and regional engagement. This work provides a foundation for devising evidence-based investment plans, informed resource allocation, and quality evaluations of existing animal health investments.
- The GBADs Programme is enhancing the understanding of investment and productivity gaps in important European production systems, notably in the dairy cattle and salmon sectors. Country-specific studies, such as those initiated for dairy cattle in the Netherlands and salmon in Norway, are part of this comprehensive effort.
- Capacity-building efforts are underway, with workshops, consortium meetings, and engagements with partners and stakeholders. Looking ahead to 2023, there are plans to expand the collaboration to include the UK, Ireland, and Albania, while also undertaking detailed mortality impact assessments in the Netherlands and Norway.
- A GBADs side event at the WOAAH General Session will be held on 23 May from 11:30 to 12:30 in room 201.

Delegate of Sweden, as EU Presidency, commended the presenters on the GBADs presentation and read a declaration in support of the programme; underlining the importance of equally novel risks in the form of SAT-2 FMD serotypes, thanking efforts of the Turkish government, and also underlining the risks to animal health raised by the war in Ukraine.

Ms. Jennifer Lasley, from the Capacity Building Department, announced briefly the PVS Information System which is under development and targeted for global launch at the 100th anniversary which will be commemorated during the 2024 General Session. She underlined the benefits for members expected with the new system and encouraged Delegates to visit the PVS Kiosk during the General Session.

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

10. Financial Summary Report (related SG financial documents)

Mr Xavier Pairault, WOAAH Director of Administration, briefly explained the rationale behind the proposal of increasing the statutory contributions rates by 15% for 2024. His presentation was a summary of the financial report available on the GS website.

He reminded the meeting 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) A Council special meeting held in December 2021 that supported the proposal presented and finally accepted by the Assembly in 2022 for increasing the statutory contributions of 30% over 2023 – 2025 period, 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. Such rationale remains relevant for 2023 with a key additional issue, the drastic deterioration of the economic situation.

The Director of Administration explained that since the adoption of resolution 15/2018, OECD Consumer price index of the year N-1 is taken into account for the contribution of the year N+1. Therefore 2024 minimum increase would be +9,6% at least.

Comparing the OECD-Total CPI in the last year's period against the annual increase of statutory contributions, it is evident that WOAAH increase rates since 2019 had been effectively extremely low (= - 0,3%).

Referring to WOAAH's 2024 Budgeted Work Programme preparation, Mr Pairault explained that the impact of high inflation across all goods and services, coupled with the energy crisis, has already taken a toll on WOAAH's capacity to deliver activities. The inflation rate will nullify and consume the positive gains from the increased statutory contributions. Consequently, at the February 2023 meeting, the Council unanimously agreed to request the Membership to increase 2024 statutory contributions by 15% to cushion the impact of inflation. Such increase leads to a 9.6% of effective increase over a 6-year period and is used to cover fixed and recurring costs as well as key investments such as the digital transformation, status recognition activities and Regional Offices functioning.

The Director of Administration concluded highlighting that statutory and extraordinary contributions through the Regular Budget are a fundamental source of funding and are essential for the functioning of the Organisation. It provides a level of funding reliability and allows resources to be assigned and aligned with the activities and strategic plans of the Organisation. They are essential for WOAAH's financial sustainability.

11. Facilitated access to the voting platform

Mr Rodney De Souza, Head of WOAAH Legal Affairs Unit, reminded Delegates that, in the context of the 90th General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates voting on some resolutions and partial elections will be held online using two voting platforms, Platform 1 to vote for some resolutions in advance, and Platform 2 to vote during the partial elections.

Similar to 2022, these two platforms will be managed by the service provider 'UK Engage'. However, unlike the previous year, the voting platforms will only be accessible through the Delegate Portal. Delegates received a message from VotingSupport@woah.org with such information and how to access the platforms.

Within the Delegate Portal, a link will be displayed for each of the voting platforms. Each link is unique and will be automatically authenticated.

Delegates with no right to vote will not see platform 1 but it is key for them to login for platform 2 for partial elections and even if they cannot vote it is important to ensure the quorum.

Early votes for resolutions must be cast online (Platform 1) from 15 May to 22 May (23:59 CEST).

Partial election voting will be online (Platform 2) and will take place on Thursday 25 May at 11:30 CEST at the General Session venue. Only Delegates present in the room will be able to vote.

Delegates will be able to access the links by using their own electronic devices.

Delegates need to validate the access to the Delegates Portal following instructions sent through an automatically generated email from 'Microsoft Invitations on behalf of the WOAHP'. This email contains information on how to validate access to the Delegate Portal.

Delegates were encouraged to validate their access to the Portal as soon as possible to ensure having access to the online voting platforms.

12. Proposal of Members of the Regional Commission for Europe to the vacant positions of the Council and the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Europe

Dr Maris Balodis reminded participants that the Delegates of the Netherlands and Montenegro had stepped down, leaving vacant their respective positions in the Council and the Bureau of the Regional Commission which required a partial election to be held.

Following a discussion involving all Delegates present in the meeting, the following proposals were made:

- Dr Susana Pombo, Delegate of Portugal, was proposed for a position in the Council.
- Dr Vasili Basiladze, Delegate of Georgia, was proposed as Vice President of the Bureau of the Regional Commission.
- Dr Nikolche Babovski, Delegate of North Macedonia, was proposed as Secretary General of the Bureau of the Regional Commission

All proposals will be for a one-year period, until the election for the next three-year mandate of the Council and the Regional Commission, which will be held in May 2024.

These proposals will be presented to the World Assembly for election.

13. Closing

The meeting officially ended at 13.10 CEST.

**MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Paris, 17 May 2023

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Outcomes of the 30th Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe held in Catania, Italy, from 3 to 7 October 2022
3. Confirmation of the venue of the 31st Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe to be held in September 2024
4. Proposal of a Technical Item 1 (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 31st Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe
5. Proposal of three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by WOAHP through various means (Scientific Review, Newsletter, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting)
6. Report of activities under the WOAHP Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe
7. Report of activities within the GF-TADs mechanism in Europe, Action Plan 2023-2027, Regional coordination mechanism
8. One Health Regional Quadripartite Coordination Mechanism
9. Global Burden of Animal Diseases (GBADs) - Activities in Europe to estimate the economic impact

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

10. Financial Summary Report (related SG financial documents)
11. Facilitated access to the voting platform
12. Proposal of Members of the Regional Commission for Europe to the vacant positions of the Council and the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Europe
13. Closing

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

Paris, 16 May 2023

The Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 16 May 2023 at 9:00 a.m. CEST by videoconference. The meeting was attended by 55 participants, including Delegates and observers from 13 Members of the Commission, and representatives from 4 International and Regional Organisations:

Members of the Commission: Bahrain, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Türkiye, and United Arab Emirates.

International/regional organisations: AOAD¹, EuFMD², FAO³, ICFAW⁴,

Observers: ADAFSA⁵, Chairpersons and members of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission, CIWF⁶, Egypt Central Laboratory for Aquaculture Research, Merck Animal Health, Norwegian Veterinary Institute, and SPANA⁷

The meeting was chaired by Dr Sanad Al-Harbi, Vice-president of the Regional Commission for the Middle East and Delegate of Saudi Arabia accompanied by Dr Mohamed Alhosani, Acting Regional Representative for the Middle East.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted.

¹ AOAD : Arab Organization for Agricultural Development

² EU-FMD: European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease

³ FAO : Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

⁴ ICFAW : International Coalition for Animal Welfare

⁵ ADAFSA: Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority

⁶ CIWF : Compassion in World Farming

⁷ SPANA : Society for the Protection of Animals and Nature (*Société Protectrice des Animaux et de la Nature*)

2. Organisation of the 17th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in October 2023

Dr Sanad Alharbi confirmed that his country was willing and honoured to hold this important regional event and invited all Delegates to attend the conference, which would be held in Riyadh, from 1 to 5 October 2023.

He reported briefly on the various arrangements Saudi Arabia had made to start organising the conference. Dr Sanad Alharbi provided general information about the event, assuring the participants invitations as well as all key details would be sent in a timely manner.

3. Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 17th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East

The Regional Commission selected the following technical item (without questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 17th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East:

“One Health: Prioritising coordination, communication and cooperation between Veterinary, Public Health, and Environmental Protection Services”

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

The Regional Commission proposed the following three strategic topics of global interest to be addressed by the WOA through various means:

1. “Transboundary animal diseases, the value of the activities carried out by Veterinary Services and their economic and social impact, under the framework of the UN Sustainable Development Goals”
2. “Vector-borne animal diseases and early warning systems”
3. “Implementation of National Action Plans on AMR”

5. Applications for WOA Collaborating Centres (Delegate of Egypt)

Dr Ihab Saber Youssef Hashem, Delegate of Egypt, submitted a request to the Regional Commission in order for it to consider the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (FVM) of the Cairo University as a WOA Collaborating Centre for Day-One Veterinary Competencies as well as the Central Laboratory for Evaluation of Veterinary Biologics (CLEVB) in Cairo as a WOA Collaborating Centre for Quality Control of Veterinary Vaccines in the Middle East.

Dr Ihab Saber Youssef Hashem provided a brief description of the proposed centres and their activities, stating that the full details had already been shared with Delegates.

The Regional Commission unanimously approved the proposals submitted by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (FVM) of the Cairo University and the Central Laboratory for Evaluation of Veterinary Biologics (CLEVB).

6. Information regarding the change of name of the Sub-Regional Representation in Abu Dhabi

Dr Jean-Phillipe Dop, WOAHA Deputy Director General, Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities, explained the process regarding the proposal to be presented via a resolution for adoption by the World Assembly of Delegates to change the name of the Subregional Representation in Abu Dhabi currently referred as “Sub-Regional Representation in Abu Dhabi” to be named “Sub-Regional Representation for the Arabian Gulf”. This is to align the name of the representation with its geographical scope.

7. PVS Pathway Regional Roadmap

Dr Mohamed Ali Alhosani, WOAHA Sub Regional Representative in Abu Dhabi, started his intervention underlining that there has been extended time gaps between PVS missions requested and conducted in the different Members of the Region. Those gaps were mainly in terms of pertinence of the mission requested based on the Member’s real needs as well as the level of organisation of the requested missions by the Member.

The Sub Regional Representative mentioned that those gaps could be the result of some misunderstanding regarding the main objectives and scope of the PVS Pathway, and the different targeted support missions it offers to better address the specific needs of each Member.

He then highlighted some outcomes of the regional PVS Pathway orientation training workshops in UAE and Jordan in 2022 and 2023 respectively. Members need to develop their Veterinary Services capacities to be agile and able to face and manage efficiently the increasing priorities and current challenges such as AMR, veterinary education, transboundary animal diseases, natural disasters, climate change and ecosystem degradation. For this, a clear understanding of WOAHA mission and available tools to support its Members, such as the PVS Pathway, is key.

He encouraged Members to first, define the current situation and needs of their Veterinary Services, and develop a national roadmap before requesting for a specific PVS mission so to better address the Member’s needs.

Dr Alhosani then presented a Sub regional PVS Pathway roadmap from 2023-2028.

The Regional Commission requested WOAHA to consider developing a tool to facilitate prioritisation of activities by Members.

Ms. Jennifer Lasley, from the Capacity Building Department, announced briefly the PVS Information System which is under development and targeted for global launch at the 100th anniversary which will be commemorated during the 2024 General Session. She underlined the benefits for members expected with the new system and encouraged Delegates to visit the PVS Kiosk during the General Session.

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

8. Financial Summary Report (related SG financial documents)

Mr Xavier Pairault, WOAHA Director of Administration, briefly explained the rationale behind the proposal of increasing the statutory contributions rates by 15% for 2024. His presentation was a summary of the financial report available on the GS website.

He reminded the meeting 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) A Council special meeting held in December 2021 that supported the proposal presented and finally accepted by the Assembly in 2022 for increasing the statutory contributions of 30% over 2023 – 2025 period, 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. Such

rational remains relevant for 2023 with a key additional issue, the drastic deterioration of the economic situation.

The Director of Administration explained that since the adoption of resolution 15/2018, OECD Consumer price index of the year N-1 is taken into account for the contribution of the year N+1. Therefore 2024 minimum increase would be +9,6% at least.

Comparing the OECD-Total CPI in the last year's period against the annual increase of statutory contributions, it is evident that WOAAH increase rates since 2019 had been effectively extremely low (= - 0,3%).

Referring to WOAAH's 2024 Budgeted Work Programme preparation, Mr Pairault explained that the impact of high inflation across all goods and services, coupled with the energy crisis, has already taken a toll on WOAAH's capacity to deliver activities. The inflation rate will nullify and consume the positive gains from the increased statutory contributions. Consequently, at the February 2023 meeting, the Council unanimously agreed to request the Membership to increase 2024 statutory contributions by 15% to cushion the impact of inflation. Such increase leads to a 9.6% of effective increase over a 6-year period and is used to cover fixed and recurring costs as well as key investments such as the digital transformation, status recognition activities and Regional Offices functioning.

The Director of Administration concluded highlighting that statutory and extraordinary contributions through the Regular Budget are a fundamental source of funding and are essential for the functioning of the Organisation. It provides a level of funding reliability and allows resources to be assigned and aligned with the activities and strategic plans of the Organisation. They are essential for WOAAH's financial sustainability. Following doubts by some Delegates, it was clarified that the increase of contributions for 2023 will remain the same as voted in 2022. The 15% increase to be voted this year will be effective for the 2024 statutory contributions.

Following doubts by some Delegates, it was clarified that the increase of contributions for 2023 will remain the same as voted in 2022. The 15% increase to be voted this year will be effective for the 2024 statutory contributions.

9. Facilitated access to the voting platform

Ms Lisa Brouard from Legal Affairs Unit reminded Delegates that, in the context of the 90th General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates voting on some resolutions and partial elections will be held online using two voting platforms, Platform 1 to vote for some resolutions in advance, and Platform 2 to vote during the partial elections.

Similar to 2022, these two platforms will be managed by the service provider 'UK Engage'. However, unlike the previous year, the voting platforms will only be accessible through the Delegate Portal. Delegates received a message from VotingSupport@woah.org with such information and how to access the platforms.

Within the Delegate Portal, a link will be displayed for each of the voting platforms. Each link is unique and will be automatically authenticated.

Delegates with no right to vote will not see platform 1 but it is key for them to login for platform 2 for partial elections and even if they cannot vote it is important to ensure the quorum.

Early votes for resolutions must be cast online (Platform 1) from 15 May to 22 May (23:59 CEST).

Partial election voting will be online (Platform 2) and will take place on Thursday 25 May at 11:30 CEST at the General Session venue. Only Delegates present in the room will be able to vote.

Delegates will be able to access the links by using their own electronic devices.

Delegates need to validate the access to the Delegates Portal following instructions sent through an automatically generated email from 'Microsoft Invitations on behalf of the WOAH'. This email contains information on how to validate access to the Delegate Portal.

Delegates were encouraged to validate their access to the Portal as soon as possible to ensure having access to the online voting platforms.

10. Proposal of Members of the Regional Commission for the Middle East to the vacant positions of the Council and the Bureau of the Regional Commission for the Middle East

Dr Fajer Sabah Al Saloom, Member of the Council and Delegate of Bahrain, reminded Delegates about the vacant position of the President of the Bureau of the Regional Commission which requires a partial election.

Considering Dr Sanad Al-Harbi, current Vice-President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East and Delegate of Saudi Arabia, proposed his candidature for the position of President, the position of Vice-President then became vacant.

Following a discussion involving all Delegates present in the meeting, Dr Sanad Al-Harbi, Delegate of Saudi Arabia, was proposed as President of the Regional Commission and Dr Rachel Dodeen, Delegate of Jordan, was proposed as Vice-President of the Regional Commission. Both for a one-year period, until the election for the next three-year mandate of the Regional Commission, which will be held in May 2024.

The proposal on the new composition of the Bureau of the Regional Commission will be presented to the World Assembly for election.

11. Closing

The meeting officially ended at 10:45 CEST.

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

Paris, 16 May 2023

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Organisation of the 17th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in October 2023
3. Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 17th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East
4. 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)
5. Applications for WOAHA Collaborating Centres (Delegate of Egypt)
6. Information regarding the change of name of the Sub-Regional Representation in Abu Dhabi
7. PVS Pathway Regional Roadmap

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

8. Financial Summary Report (related SG financial documents)
9. Facilitated access to the voting platform
10. Proposal of Members of the Regional Commission for the Middle East to the vacant positions of the Council and the Bureau of the Regional Commission for the Middle East
11. Closing