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**Summary of the Activities of the Working**

**Group on Wildlife**

**Which met from 14 to 17 June and 13 to 16 December 2022  
Presented by Dr William Karesh, Chair of the  
Working Group**

**(90 SG/11GT1)**

The Chair of the Working Group on Wildlife, Dr William Karesh, presented an overview of the activities of the Working Group since the previous General Session and the outcomes of the annual meetings of the Working Group held from 14 to 17 June 2022 and from 13 to 16 December 2022.

The Working Group reiterated that the health of human, domestic animals and wildlife was inextricably linked, yet the comprehensive needs for health of free-ranging wildlife populations were largely unaddressed by international organisations and agencies. Urgent action was needed to avoid further biodiversity loss and to maintain and restore healthy ecosystems to ensure a healthier, more sustainable future. With its mandate to improve animal health and welfare worldwide and its global network and outreach, WOAAH could and should provide leadership in this area.

The Working Group recognised the successful adoption of the WOAAH Wildlife Health Framework and expansion of the organisation's wildlife health-related activities, notably around capacity building for wildlife disease surveillance, strengthening the functional network of WOAAH national focal points for wildlife, and reviewing the purpose and mechanism for reporting of wildlife disease at international level. Several consultant-led reviews and surveys (including on existing international standards; veterinary legislation; wildlife disease surveillance; and the impact of infectious disease on wildlife) had been commissioned to provide an evidence base for the WOAAH Wildlife Health Framework.

The Working Group discussed priority areas for WOAAH to act in line with its existing mandate and in support of its Wildlife Health Framework. The priority areas included:

- i. WOAAH could develop standards and/or guidelines that protect wild animal health and conservation within a One Health framework. Current WOAAH guidelines and standards could be reviewed to identify opportunities for mutually beneficial outcomes for domestic and wild animal health, and to consider the health of wild animals from an environmental and ecological perspective.
- ii. Enhanced wildlife disease surveillance and reporting (the Working Group was advised on how the Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources (EIOS) system could be used to follow disease events in wildlife and was updated on the "Quick Win Project" (the Quick Win Project allows Members to continue to report diseases in wildlife to WOAAH, whilst WOAAH reviews and considers a long term strategy for wildlife disease reporting). The Working Group noted the importance of surveillance leading to improved prevention and response actions.
- iii. Capacity enhancement:
  - Strengthened Collaborating Centre Network to support delivery of the Wildlife Health Framework: The Working Group discussed and suggested recommendations for setting up a network of Collaborating Centres working on wildlife;
  - Inclusion of wild animal considerations and capacity assessment in PVS framework (assessment criteria, wildlife experts on missions etc.) to support countries in assessing wildlife health needs.
  - The Working Group advanced a draft paper on possible mechanisms to support Members to manage events affecting wildlife.
- iv. Education and training:
  - Strengthen the wildlife national focal point network;
  - Extend the WOAAH network by including additional partnerships with wildlife health experts and international conservation or related to wildlife health organisations (e.g. Wildlife Disease Association, International Whaling Commission, CITES, IUCN, etc.);
  - Consider including wildlife value chain disease risk assessment into WOAAH training activities and tool

Finally, the Working Group addressed additional topics such as monkeypox, Multi-party Trust Fund for biodiversity and health, and avian influenza.