

**ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL
(BETWEEN MAY 2022 AND MAY 2023)**

Each year since the 75th General Session, the Council has reported on its activities to the Assembly. Since its meeting in September 2022, the detailed minutes of the meetings of the Council are made available on the Delegates' Portal to keep them informed of the activities of the Council.

Since the 89th General Session, the Council, chaired by the President of WOAHA, Dr Hugo Federico Idoyaga Benítez (Paraguay), has met twice: from 27 to 29 September 2022 face-to-face at WOAHA Headquarters and from 28 February to 2 March 2023 (remotely).

At the meeting in [September 2022](#), the Council:

1. **Welcomed Dr Fajer Al Salloom (Bahrain)**, a new member of the Council, representing the Middle East Region, elected on the occasion of the partial elections held during the 89th General Session;
2. Carried out a **detailed analysis of the 89th General Session**, held for the first time in a hybrid format, and suggested improvements for the next General Session. The Council was also consulted on the arrangements for conducting the next General Session and approved the return to an entirely face-to-face format, public health conditions permitting;
3. Examined the various proposals put forward by the Regional Commissions during the 89th General Session and selected, for presentation at the **90th General Session**, the following **Technical Item**: "*Strategic challenges in the global control of high pathogenicity avian influenza*";
4. Focused its discussions on **WOAHA's structuring initiatives**, such as the Observatory, and on the implementation of the Seventh Strategic Plan (2021-2025). During the meeting, the issue of sustainable funding for the Regular Budget was the subject of extensive debate, over and above the adoption of the increase in statutory contributions. In the interests of transparency, the Council approved the Director General's proposal to systematically publish on the Delegates' Portal the full minutes of the meetings of the Council.

At the meeting in [February-March 2023](#), the Council:

1. **Prepared the 90th General Session of WOAHA** and approved the programme along with the draft administrative and financial documents that needed to be presented 60 days before the General Session. It also approved the applications for Reference Centres status. The Council was informed of the arrangements for holding the forum on animal health;
2. Took note of the resignation, for health reasons, of Dr Christianne Brusckhe as Vice-President of the Council and Delegate of the Netherlands to WOAHA and discussed the forthcoming partial elections within WOAHA's governing bodies (members of the Council for the Americas and Europe regions, and various other vacant positions within the Bureaux of Regional Commissions);

3. Was updated on WOAHA's 'One Health' activities, and in particular the Organisation's efforts aimed at positioning animal health and the Veterinary Services within negotiations relating to the draft global agreement (treaty) on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response;
4. Discussed the current state of progress on implementing the Seventh Strategic Plan;
5. Finally approved the introduction of the acronym "WOAH" in the 2023 edition of the Organisation's *Codes* and *Manuals* and commented favourably on the first annual report of the Observatory;
6. Approved, in the interests of consistency, changes to the names of some Sub-Regional Representations and one Regional Commission.

The President, along with the Council members for the respective regions, participated at the following Conferences of Regional Commissions: from 3 to 7 October 2022 at the 30th Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe, chaired by Dr Maris Balodis, Delegate of Latvia; from 8 to 9 November 2022 at the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas, chaired by Dr Wilmer José Juárez Juárez, Delegate of Nicaragua, and from 20 to 24 February 2023 at the 25th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa, chaired by Dr Honoré Robert N'lemba Mabela, Delegate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Conference for the Americas was the only one held virtually.

Besides participating in important events held in their respective regions, the members of the Council were regularly in contact with the Delegates in their region to prepare and report on meetings of the Council, notably on the occasion of Regional Core Group meetings.

The Council will meet in plenary session at WOAHA Headquarters (Paris, France) on Friday 19 May 2023 to prepare the 90th General Session. In compliance with Resolution XVII of 28 May 2004 relating to the creation of a World Animal Health and Welfare Fund (the World Fund), the 16th meeting of the Management Committee of the World Fund, at which a member of the Council will participate, will take place on 18 May 2023 to examine and approve the activity and financial reports presented by the Headquarters.

The two Auditors, members of the Council, will meet the Directorate of Administration/Accounting Unit on 18 May 2023 to audit the accounts of WOAHA.

For the record, the composition of the Council as of 19 May 2023 is shown in Annex I.

COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL (19 MAY 2023)

Dr Hugo Federico Idoyaga Benítez (Paraguay)	President
Dr Mark Schipp (Australia)	Past President
<i>Vacant</i>	Vice-President
Dr Komla Batassé Batawui (Togo)	Member
Dr Roland Xolani Dlamini (Eswatini)	Member
Dr Him Hoo Yap (Singapore)	Member
<i>Vacant</i>	Member
Dr Konstantin Savenkov (Russia)	Member
Dr Fajer Sabah Al Salloom (Bahrain)	Member

NB *The mandate of member for the Americas, previously fulfilled by Dr Yobani Gutiérrez Ravelo (Cuba), has been vacant since October 2022.*

The mandate of member for Europe, previously fulfilled by Dr Christiane Brusckke (The Netherlands), has been vacant since March 2023.