
90th General Session • Paris, 21 – 25 May 2023

Final Report

2023

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List of abbreviations

| | | |
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| ADAFSA | : | Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority |
| ALA | : | Latin American Poultry Association |
| AMR | : | Antimicrobial resistance |
| AMR-MPTF | : | Antimicrobial Resistance Multi-Partner Trust Fund |
| ANIMUSE | : | Global Animal Antimicrobial Use Database |
| AOAD | : | Arab Organization for Agricultural Development |
| AU-IBAR | : | African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources |
| AU-PANVAC | : | African Union Panafrican Veterinary Vaccines Centre |
| CaribVET | : | Caribbean Animal Health Network |
| CITES | : | Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna |
| CIWF | : | Compassion in World Farming |
| COMESA | : | Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa |
| CVP | : | Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone |
| EC | : | European Commission |
| ECCAS (RAHC) | : | Economic Community of Central African States (Regional Animal Health Centre) |
| ECOWAS (RAHC) | : | Economic Community of West African States (Regional Animal Health Centre) |
| EDFZ | : | Equine disease-free zone |
| EISMV | : | <i>Ecole Inter-Etats de Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires</i> |
| EU | : | European Union |
| EuFMD | : | European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease |
| FAO | : | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| Feedlatina | : | association of Latin American and Caribbean feed industry |
| FESASS | : | European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security |
| FVE | : | Federation of Veterinarians of Europe |
| GALVmed | : | Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines |
| GARC | : | Global Alliance for Rabies Control |
| HealthforAnimals | : | global animal health association |
| HHP | : | High-health, high performance |
| HPAI | : | High pathogenicity avian influenza |
| IABS | : | International Alliance for Biological Standardisation |
| IABS | : | International Alliance for Biological Standardisation |
| ICFAW | : | coalition of international global animal welfare organizations |
| ICIPE | : | International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology |
| ICRC | : | International Committee of the Red Cross |
| IEC | : | International Egg Commission |
| IHSC | : | International Horse Sports Confederation |
| IICA | : | Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture |
| ILRI | : | International Livestock Research Institute |
| ILRI | : | International Livestock Research Institute |
| OECD | : | Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development |
| OIRSA | : | International Regional Organisation for Plant and Animal Health |
| PPP | : | Public-private partnership |
| Quadripartite | : | FAO, WHO, WOA and UNEP |
| QUADs Alliance | : | Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America |
| RSPCA | : | Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals |
| SAARC | : | South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation |
| SG-CAN | : | General Secretariat of the Andean Community |
| SPANA | : | Société Protectrice des Animaux et de la Nature |
| UNEP | : | United Nations Environment Programme |
| WAEMU | : | West African Economic and Monetary Union |
| WAHIS | : | World Animal Health Information System |
| WAP | : | World Animal Protection |
| WHO | : | World Health Organisation |
| WRO | : | World Renderers Organization |
| WWF | : | World Wide Fund for Nature |

INTRODUCTION

1. The 90th General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates¹ of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) was held from 21 to 25 May 2023 at the Maison de la Chimie, in Paris (France), and was chaired by Dr Hugo Federico Idoyaga Benítez (Paraguay), President of the Assembly.
2. One hundred and forty-one Members participated in the General Session in person.
3. Observers from three non-member countries or territories and representatives of 42 international and regional organisations having an agreement with WOAH also attended the General Session in person.
4. The Director General of WOAH, Dr Monique Eloit, participated in the sessions in a consultative capacity and served as Secretary General.
5. Dr David Swayne (United States of America) participated in the General Session as Rapporteur for the Technical Item.
6. The Presidents of the four WOAH Specialist Commissions and the Chairs of the Working Groups for Wildlife and for Antimicrobial Resistance and representatives of some *ad hoc* Groups also participated in the Plenary Sessions.
7. Dr Romano Marabelli, Honorary President of WOAH and Dr Bernard Vallat, Honorary Director General of WOAH, participated in the General Session.
8. Nineteen Guests of Honour (Ministers, Members of Government and senior representatives of multilateral institutions) also participated in the Opening Ceremony.

GENERAL SESSION PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES

9. The Council was regularly consulted and informed of the progress of the preparations for the General Session, a notable instance being during its meeting in March 2023.
10. To maximise the time allocated for the General Session, “Pre-General Session Information Webinars” were held in April 2023 and the Regional Commissions’ meetings were also held online during the week prior to the General Session.

Pre-General Session Information Webinars on standards proposed for adoption

11. Three pre-General Session Information Webinars were held during the week beginning 17 April 2023. These informed WOAH Members about the new and revised texts, as published in the February 2023 Specialist Commissions’ meeting reports, which would be proposed for adoption by the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Aquatic Animals Commission), the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission) and the Biological Standards Commission. The President of each Commission delivered a presentation and participants were invited to submit questions during each webinar. The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission) contributed to the webinar related to the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*.
12. The purpose of these webinars was to ensure that WOAH Members understood what would be proposed for adoption and the rationale for these proposals, so they could prepare their positions for the General Session.

¹ Hereafter “the Assembly”

■ SUNDAY 21 MAY 2023 ■

Opening Session

13. Ms Redi Thlabi, a South African journalist, producer, author, and a former radio presenter emceed the Opening Ceremony, welcomed the participants and thanked the following for honouring WOAHP with their presence at the Ceremony: Mr Carlos Bernardo Cherniak (Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Argentina to the Rome-based UN Agencies and Chair of the Sub-Committee on livestock of the FAO's² Committee on Agriculture); Mr Goshgar Tahmazli (Chair of the Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan); Mr Fidelis Moloa (Minister of the Agriculture, Botswana); Mr Amadou Dicko (Minister of Agriculture, Animal and Fisheries Resources, Burkina Faso); Mr Harpreet Kochhar (President of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency); Mr Sidi Tiémoko Touré (Minister of Animal and Fishery Resources, Côte d'Ivoire); Mr Marc Fesneau (Minister of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty, France); Mr Mohamed Ould Abdellahi Ould Ethmane (Minister of Livestock, Mauritania); Mr Moisés Santiago Bertoni Hicar (Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Paraguay); Mr Abdulla Abdulaziz A.T Al-Subaie (Minister of Municipalities and Environment, Qatar); Mr Hassan Hussein Mohamed (Minister of Livestock, Forestry and Range, Somalia); Mr Mohammed Mousa Alameeri (Assistant Undersecretary, Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, United Arab Emirates); Mr Bakhromjom Norkobilov (Chair of the State Veterinary Committee, Uzbekistan); Mr Phung Duc Tien (Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam); Ms Maryam Hareb Al Suwaidi (Deputy Director General, Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority); Ms Ivonne Higuero (Secretary General, CITES³); Ms Maria Helena Semedo (Deputy Director General, FAO); Ms Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko (Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union); Mr Khalfan bin Matar al Sharji (Director General of Livestock at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, Oman).
14. Dr Idoyaga Benítez welcomed the participants and was pleased to meet the Assembly in person to discuss and reflect together on issues concerning our common future.
15. He began his address by referring to the increasingly evident globalisation as well as the current and future challenges we were faced with, including climate change and its impact on animal, plant and environmental health, with the consequent danger to food security and public health; socio-economic changes, with new consumption patterns; as well as animal welfare; antimicrobial resistance; the growing importance of aquaculture production; and the role of wildlife.
16. In his address, the President underlined the fact that this General Session was the first one to be held in-person after four years of remote and hybrid General Sessions. The President referred to the challenges faced by WOAHP in an ever-changing global context. He noted that these challenges were complex and constantly evolving and could not be addressed alone. These challenges required collaborative, interdisciplinary and cross-cutting approaches, with increasingly complex and demanding technical support and scientific expertise, all of which needed to be oriented towards strengthening the capacity of countries.
17. He emphasised that a successful response to these complex and evolving challenges also required technical and scientific expertise. He illustrated his remarks by mentioning the unprecedented global demographic and economic impact, among others, of the COVID-19 pandemic, which had demonstrated that it needed to be addressed through joint and cross-cutting actions and that intersectoral collaboration and technical information exchange through the One Health approach were essential for a better understanding of the risks at the human-animal-environment interface. He emphasised that, within the framework of the Quadripartite⁴ Alliance, WOAHP played a very important role in this respect. He recalled that the Organisation had advocated the recognition of the crucial role of the Veterinary Services

² FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

³ CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna

⁴ Quadripartite: FAO, World Health Organisation (WHO), WOAHP and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

during the pandemic when they had continued to work both on disease surveillance and prevention and on ensuring the continuity of trade in animal products to safeguard the supply of food for the human population. He added that, faced with the new challenge of the unprecedented global spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza, which had zoonotic potential, the Veterinary Services had a key role to play in preventing the disease at its source.

18. He went on to state that, however, the main challenge facing WOA⁵ was to fulfil its mission of preserving animal health worldwide, as well as the safe trade of animals and animal products, which required Members through their Veterinary Services to implement WOA⁵ standards and to interact with private, regional or international organisations to strengthen their capacities.
19. He indicated that the General Session would not only discuss new animal health standards and provide information on the global animal health situation, but would also highlight the contribution being made by the Organisation to a healthier and more sustainable world in areas such as animal welfare, antimicrobial resistance, biological threat reduction, capacity building and aquatic animal and wildlife health. He also mentioned the technological improvements introduced by the Organisation for better information management to provide more efficient support to Members in decision-making or implementation of standards, including the new WAHIS⁵, the database on the use of antimicrobial agents and the Observatory.
20. He took the opportunity to point out that it was key for WOA⁵ and its Members to ensure that the Organisation was recognised outside the Veterinary Services sector and that we were not only limited to the areas of animal health and trade in animals and animal products, but were also taking joint positions on the major global challenges of today in order to build a healthier and more resilient world for all. He reminded Delegates that WOA⁵'s Seventh Strategic Plan (2021-2025) provided the necessary elements to better respond to these challenges and urged them to work with the Organisation in this task, as a strong, well-resourced and capable WOA⁵ was necessary to successfully meet these challenges.
21. The President concluded his address by thanking the Assembly for its participation in the General Session.
22. Following the President's address, the Master of Ceremonies handed the floor to Dr Eloit.
23. In her address, the Director General of WOA⁵ welcomed all the delegations and guests to Paris for the 90th General Session, after many years of virtual meetings. She emphasised that the General Session was an important annual meeting that set the pace for the Organisation's activities.
24. Having received the agreement of the Council, the Director General stated that the format of the General Session had been adapted to allow more time for dialogue, thus enriching the Organisation's work through interactive exchanges. She specifically noted that holding webinars beforehand had freed up three half-days to host a forum on animal health with the focus on avian influenza and the measures to be taken in response.
25. She informed the Assembly of the kiosks and side events available throughout the General Session to provide Delegates with a full picture of activities and opportunities to talk to the WOA⁵ colleagues directly involved. She hoped that through these exchanges the Organisation would be able to better understand the needs of its Members and be responsive to their expectations.
26. The Director General noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had led the Organisation to accelerate the expansion of its areas of expertise, increase the level of engagement within the Quadripartite and strengthen its network of partners. She went on to note that the pandemic had shaken up the landscape of globe sanitary governance and that WOA⁵ and the national Veterinary Services had a unique opportunity to gain greater recognition of their role in the new landscape that had subsequently emerged.

⁵ WAHIS: World Animal Health Information System

27. The Director General expressed her gratitude to the Ministers for their presence and underlined this as a testimony of their support and interest in WOA's activities similar to that shown by other G7 and G20 Ministers.
28. She then underlined that WOA's success depended on the relevance of its strategies and activity programmes, and its long-term credibility depended on the robustness of its institutional foundations, the efficiency of its internal functioning and the stability of its financial resources. In this regard, the Director General announced that meetings with the Council and the bureaux of the Regional Commissions would be held to discuss the revision of some of the Organisation's Basic Texts and the sustainability of the budget.
29. In closing, the Director General asked the Assembly for continued support to modernise the Organisation so that it could continue to be recognised for its values and performance, and she wished attendees a successful and fruitful General Session.
30. Following her address, the Director General handed the floor to the Master of Ceremonies, who invited the following guests of honour to give their speeches: Mr Moloa, Mr Dicko, Mr Bertoni Hicar, Mr Tien, Mr Kochhar, Mr Norkobilov, Ms Semedo, Ms Higuero, Ms Stella Kyriakides (European Union Commissioner for Health and Food Safety – via a video message), and Mr Fesneau.

High-level Panel Discussion

31. The High-level Panel, facilitated by the Master of Ceremonies, consisted of the following panellists.
 - Ambassador Carlos Bernardo Cherniak (Argentina)
 - Dr Amadou Dicko (Burkina Faso)
 - Dr Harpreet Kochhar (Canada)
 - Mr Marc Fesneau (France)
 - Ms Maria Helena Semedo (FAO)
 - Dr Monique Eloit (WOA)
32. The objectives of the High-level Panel discussion were to gain insights into the key areas of concern for senior leaders during the HPAI⁶ crisis in their jurisdiction; identify priority needs for countries to address the threat of avian influenza; and determine how WOA and FAO could best assist their respective Members in preparation and response.

Presentation of WOA Honorary Awards

33. Dr Idoyaga Benítez reminded participants that in accordance with the Basic Texts of WOA, honorary awards could be made to members of the veterinary community for outstanding services to veterinary science and to WOA. He then indicated the persons selected by the Council in 2023 to receive the awards: Prof. Thomas Mettenleiter (Germany) for the Gold Medal, and Drs David Swayne (United States of America) and Jakob Zinsstag (Switzerland) for the Meritorious Award.

⁶ HPAI: highly pathogenic avian influenza

34. Dr Idoyaga Benítez commended Prof. Mettenleiter and recalled the major accomplishments of his career and outstanding services to WOAHA and the veterinary world. He then delivered a speech in praise of Drs Swayne and Zinsstag and presented them each with the Meritorious Award. The recipients thanked the President and the Assembly.
35. Following the ceremony, Dr Idoyaga Benítez declared open the 90th General Session of the World Assembly of WOAHA Delegates.

■ **MONDAY 22 MAY 2023** ■

Animal Health Forum and Technical Item

36. Dr Montserrat Arroyo, WOAHA Deputy Director General “International Standards and Science”, introduced the Animal Health Forum ‘Policy to Action: The case of avian influenza - Reflections for change’, a format introduced for the first time in a WOAHA General Session providing an opportunity for open discussions among Delegates, subject-matter experts and relevant stakeholders on how best to address current challenges in the global control of HPAI. She explained that these challenges included issues related to surveillance and monitoring for early detection and prevention, disease control strategies for prevention and control, trade aspects and global co-ordination. The Forum that took place through four interactive sessions held over Monday 22 May and the morning of Tuesday 23 May started with the presentation of the Technical Item.
37. The Technical Item ‘Strategic challenges in the global control of HPAI’ ([Doc. 90 SG/8](#)) was presented by the Rapporteur, Dr David Swayne, and set the scene for the Animal Health Forum by providing a comprehensive review of the unprecedented shift in the epidemiology and ecology of HPAI, the ensuing challenges, and possible solutions for consideration, whilst highlighting the impact of HPAI on poultry, public health and biodiversity. The Technical Item provided a common background understanding of the situation and the basis for further discussions on what was needed to tackle these challenges.
38. Dr Arroyo closed the Animal Health Forum by thanking Dr Swayne and all the panellists for the excellent interventions and reminded the Assembly that the summarised report of the Animal Health Forum, including the key take home messages for each of the discussion sessions, would be made available on the [WOAHA website](#).
39. Dr Arroyo invited the Delegates of Algeria, Argentina, Australia (also as past president of the Assembly and member of the Council), Eswatini (also as member of the Council), France, Japan, and the UK, the representatives of the International Poultry Council (IPC), IEC⁷ and IABS⁸ to join the Rapporteur to formulate a draft Resolution for presentation to and adoption by the Assembly.

■ **TUESDAY 23 MAY 2023** ■

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

Adoption of the Provisional Programme of the General Session
([Doc 90 SG/7](#))

40. The President asked whether the participants had any comments on the agenda.

⁷ IEC: International Eggs Commission

⁸ IABS: International Alliance for Biological Standardisation

41. In the absence of any comments, the Assembly adopted the agenda and the timetable for the General Session.

Nomination of the Sub-Commission for the Agenda of the 90th General Session

42. The Assembly appointed the Sub-Commission responsible of ensuring the agenda for the 90th General Session, namely Drs Him Hoo Yap (Singapore) and Komla Batassé Batawui (Togo), elected Members of the Council.

Nomination of the Credentials Committee

43. The Assembly appointed Drs Fajer Al Saloom (Bahrain) and Roland Xolani Dlamini (Eswatini), Members of the Council, to validate the list of Delegates accredited by their Governments to participate in the debates and to vote, and whose countries were up to date with their contributions.
44. In accordance with the decisions of the Council, the Credentials Committee communicated to the President the list of Delegates who, owing to their country's arrears of statutory contributions due to WOAHA, were ineligible to take part in the elections and be paid the Delegates' per diem for their participation in the current General Session.

Director General's Report on 2022 WOAHA Activities in light of the Seventh Strategic Plan ([Doc. 90 SG/1](#))

45. Before presenting her Report on WOAHA's Activities in 2022, the Director General paid tribute to Dr Mahmoud Mohamed Ali Abdelhakim, formerly Delegate of Egypt and President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East, who had passed away in December 2022. She also acknowledged the work of Dr Christianne Bruschke, who had left her functions as Delegate of The Netherlands and Vice-President of the Council.
46. She thanked the Council members, the bureaux of the Regional Commissions, the members of the Specialist Commissions, Working Groups and *ad hoc* Groups, experts in Reference Centres as well as staff members for their continued work. A special word of thanks was extended to WOAHA's financial partners.
47. She then presented the key points of the 2022 activity report as described in document 90 SG/1. This work programme had been carried out within the framework of the Seventh Strategic Plan and in conjunction with 'action cards' used by each WOAHA Department and Unit to report progress.
48. She noted that WOAHA's Executive Committee had identified 15 priority actions covering the five pillars of the Seventh Strategic Plan and she pointed out that the report reflected the main results achieved in 2022.
49. For the **first strategic objective "Scientific Expertise"** of the Seventh Strategic Plan, the Director General identified three elements meriting particular attention:
 1. The Director General stated that the **Organisation's scientific system** was under review as the field of expertise was expanding beyond veterinary science, and that scientific advances were accelerating, requiring agility in WOAHA's partnership with scientific institutes. The Basic Texts, however, restricted the diversity of composition of the Specialist Commissions to experts in animal disease control and the sanitary aspects of international trade in animals and animal products. Therefore, an analysis of the Basic Texts was necessary, with a view to making proposals for change that would ensure that WOAHA's standards and activities would always be based on the highest level of scientific expertise.

2. She noted that the **Aquatic Animal Health Strategy** was in full operation, networks having been established in the Middle East (AQMENET), as well as in several countries in the Americas and in Africa. In addition, comprehensive study projects on biosecurity in small-scale aquaculture facilities and sampling methods for disease surveillance were well underway in the Asia-Pacific region.
3. The Director General reported that the **Wildlife Health Framework** had an eventful year, with the dedicated portal being completely renovated and updated for the public, and was now attracting increasing numbers of visitors every day. An *ad hoc* Group had developed guidance, published in 2023, to reduce the risk of disease spread through wildlife trade and the supply chain. Studies had been carried out to help WOAHA target better its activities in wildlife health, leading to the integration of wildlife health into the PVS Pathway. She noted that fieldwork for the Ebo-Sursy programme on viral haemorrhagic fevers had resumed after a two-year interruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ebo-Sursy programme had resulted in radio-based awareness campaigns, training workshops on surveillance protocols and the publication of scientific study results in peer-reviewed journals, etc. Negotiations were now underway for a second phase of the Ebo-Sursy programme to be extended to more countries.
50. The Director General highlighted the initiation of activities for emergency management and animal welfare. She noted the active partnership with INTERPOL and FAO on emergency management as well as the excellent outputs from the Global Conference for Emergency Management, held at the beginning of April 2023. The Director General highlighted the Incidence Management System as a priority for 2023.
51. On animal welfare, the Director General highlighted the theme “The Economics of Animal Welfare” for the 2022 edition of the Animal Welfare Forum, which succeeded the 2021 theme on the interaction between animal welfare and achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals. These two meetings had operationalised the vision set out in the introduction of the global strategy adopted in May 2017, which declared the Organisation’s position to be, “A world where animal welfare is respected, promoted and enhanced, alongside increasing improvements in animal health, human welfare, socio-economic development and environmental sustainability.” The Director General encouraged the Assembly to consider animal welfare matters seriously, as these were not only linked to animal health but were also a political issue with wider implications for human health, economics, the environment and sustainable development. Dr Eloit signalled that the Organisation would be proposing a clear position on this subject for WOAHA’s 100th anniversary.
52. Moving on to the **second strategic objective “Data Governance”**, the Director General outlined the progress made since the launch of the new WAHIS platform in March 2021, including feedback sessions to understand user needs. In September 2022, WOAHA had launched an optimised and more user-friendly early warning module, which simplified reporting. The Director General noted that further improvements were planned for the six-monthly reporting module, the public interface and the dashboards. She stressed the unwavering commitment of the WOAHA team in organising webinars with the Focal Points and individual training sessions to answer specific requests from Members, which had resulted in a steady increase in notification reports.
53. The Director General mentioned the launch of ANIMUSE⁹ in September 2022, kicking off the eighth round of global data collection. She noted that, by the end of 2022, 114 Members had successfully connected to ANIMUSE, of which 22 had submitted data. The Director General underlined that this information would be used for the report to the UN General Assembly in September 2024.

⁹ ANIMUSE: Global Animal Antimicrobial Use Database

54. The Director General highlighted that the Observatory, whose primary objectives was to monitor the implementation of standards and identify gaps, processes or services that WOAHA could improve to meet the needs of its Members, had published its 1st Annual Report. This was made possible by the Data Integration Department (DID), created in 2022 (with the former Observatory project team), and the Digital Transformation and Information Systems Department (DTIS), which joined forces to elaborate and implement a data governance framework, essential to structure the Organisation's digitalisation projects. She explained that Members could use the report to find out how they implement the WOAHA standards they have adopted. She encouraged everyone to read through the didactic, data rich report.
55. The Director General stated that work on ANIMUSE's public interface and on the PVS databases to improve accessibility of mission reports, data analysis and dashboards to Members and authorised stakeholders would continue in 2023. Additionally, a project to develop a secure online platform for the archiving, tracking and submission of files related to official recognition and maintenance of official status, and self-declarations was underway.
56. Under the **third strategic objective “Responding to Members’ needs”**, the Director General noted the PVS programme's improvement following recommendations from an external evaluation in 2019, and experience gained during the COVID-19 pandemic. She declared that, in 2022, 76 Members had benefited from 56 PVS activities combining face-to-face missions, e-learning activities and virtual sessions. This combined approach was successfully applied to PVS for laboratory sustainability.
57. The Director General emphasised the veterinary workforce development programme to help Members create an environment conducive to meeting current and future challenges. In 2022, the focus had been on the veterinary and para-veterinary workforce. Sub-regional and national workshops were held, pilot missions to support the para-professional training programme were conducted, and in the Asia-Pacific region a video was developed for policy makers and for the veterinary profession. She further noted that, to complement this work and to fulfil commitments to all animal health stakeholders, a working group was set up to develop guidelines on the competencies and training of Community Animal Health Workers. Dr Eloit underlined her support for this project as it would provide opportunities for young people.
58. The Director General stressed that the PVS and the Observatory's work would continue in 2023, with particular emphasis on the training platform to complement the PVS process, using WOAHA's competency-based training framework. This would include training modules on leadership in Veterinary Services, on emergency management, on wildlife surveillance and trade, and on PPPs¹⁰ for disease surveillance. Antimicrobial resistance, trade, animal welfare and African swine fever (ASF) modules were currently in preparation. For the Observatory, the Director General noted that the first annual report's recommendations would be followed up, and she indicated that thematic studies on zoning and compartmentalisation had already been initiated.
59. The Director General closed the presentation on the third strategic objective by mentioning a project to develop a WOAHA *Codes* and *Manuals* navigation tool and a search engine by product list, which was set to make significant progress in 2023. The aim of this project was to improve access to and knowledge of WOAHA standards for improved compliance.
60. Moving on to the **fourth strategic objective “Collaborations with partners”**, the Director General highlighted that the Quadripartite was at the heart of WOAHA's engagement. She went on to say that the collaboration had resulted in an ambitious One Health Joint Action Plan, which was officially presented and launched at the World Health Summit in Berlin (Germany) in October 2022 and at the One Health Congress in Singapore in November 2022. She stated that the plan's One Health approach included human, animal, plant and environmental health. She recalled that the first component of the plan was

¹⁰ PPP: public-private partnership

capacity building of health services, including Veterinary Services, and that WOAHA had been designated as the leader on this issue based on its experience with the PVS Pathway.

61. Dr Eloit emphasised that in 2022 the voice of the Organisation had grown stronger, noting that WOAHA had spoken at the G7 and G20 meetings and had addressed COP15 on biodiversity in Montreal (Canada), and COP27 on climate change in Egypt. She noted that on each occasion, the Organisation's views had been well received and were often referenced in the final ministerial declarations. She went on to say that WOAHA was also involved in the consultations led by the International Negotiating Body set up by the WHO Assembly to draft the "pandemic instrument". The Director General thanked Members that had joined the One Health Group of Friends, co-chaired by France and Australia, created after the adoption of Resolution No. 29 at the 89th General Session in 2022.
62. She also noted that targeted actions to combat antimicrobial resistance, rabies and avian influenza were now harmonised with WOAHA's partners globally and regionally.
63. The Director General noted that 'classic' animal health issues, remained relevant and would be a priority for 2023 through the GF-TADs platform, namely the review of the avian influenza strategy, the peste des petits ruminants project in Africa with the African Union and FAO, ASF and lumpy skin disease (LSD).
64. On the **fifth strategic objective "Efficiency and agility"**, the Director General spoke about the optimisation of performance and result-based management, and the revision of the business model of the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. She highlighted the importance of strengthening internal processes for the Organisation's reputation, and the improvements made to the information notes and the budget documents prepared for the General Session. She noted that work on budgetary processes, procurement and internal control would continue, in consideration of the External Auditor's recommendations. The Director General expected administrative procedures to become stronger and smoother between Headquarters and the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. She stated that the following year's annual report would cover activities in human resources, the development of WOAHA staff's professional skills, and the activities of the Gender Taskforce.
65. In concluding her remarks on activities relating to the fifth strategic objective, the Director General referred to the development of an informal consultation mechanism to support the implementation of the Organisation's strategy and to enable the Organisation to remain relevant, be agile and adapt quickly to changes. She noted two examples: firstly, foresight exercises leading up to the 100th anniversary would be held throughout the year, where Members would have the opportunity to participate and, secondly, the revision of the Basic Texts.
66. At the end of her presentation, the Director General highlighted the importance of revisiting WOAHA's Basic Texts and called on the Assembly to consider WOAHA's functions and scientific system to ensure the excellence of its governance and its administrative structures, with particular attention being given to the composition and function of the Council, the Regional Commissions and the Director General; as well as to the terms of reference for Specialist Commissions, *ad hoc* Groups, Working Groups and Reference Centres. Finally, she mentioned an analysis of financial resources that was due to be undertaken to seek a balance between the regular budget and the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, remarking that financial support for strategies for action and influence were not sufficient and that the Organisation itself needed to be strong.

67. The President thanked the Director General for her presentation and opened the floor to Delegates for their comments and questions on the annual report.
68. Norway, (supported by Australia), expressed its concerns about the inadequate mechanisms, resources, and staff in place to achieve the goals of the Aquatic Animal Health Strategy (AAHS). The Delegate requested that an update on the Strategy's implementation be included in the annual report on WOA's activities presented at the General Session, and that a detailed Strategy annual report be made available on the WOA website. The Delegate had noted a positive increase in aquatic activities at WOA since the launch of the AAHS but suggested that, to maintain the momentum, WOA should improve communication on various activities, set up a clear stakeholder investment policy to ensure a return on investment, and split the Observatory report into two sectors, with recommendations relating to aquatic and terrestrial animals, respectively. The Delegate encouraged WOA to review the PVS Pathway to ensure that it was suitably adapted to aquatic animals and recommended that a mobile application for aquatic animal disease identification be developed.
69. The Director General thanked the key Members (Australia, Canada and Norway) for their support in resourcing the work for aquatic animal health. She responded to the request to split the Report of the Observatory, noting that reported activities were representative of supporting animal health more broadly and it would therefore be difficult to extract data on activities specifically targeting aquatic animals. With regard to the mobile application, Dr Eloit explained that the delays were due to legal concerns regarding data ownership.
70. Indonesia expressed gratitude for the PVS evaluation of aquatic animal health services in 2022 and especially thanked the WOA team. The Delegate noted that the outcome had been valuable in improving the country's aquatic animal health system.
71. Senegal congratulated WOA on the Report of the Observatory and the Organisation's continued work. The Delegate also noted his support for the revision of the Basic Texts.
72. Benin thanked the Director General and the WOA teams for the activity report. The Delegate emphasised the importance of the progress made in improving wildlife health, given its impact on domestic livestock and human health. He also thanked WOA for the support provided in 2022 regarding the provision of vaccines and the drafting of strategic documents.
73. The President commended the productivity and quality of the work of WOA staff in ensuring the successful continuation of the implementation of the Seventh Strategic Plan. At the conclusion of Dr Eloit's presentation, the President encouraged the Assembly to support the proposal to review the Basic Texts so that the Organisation could remain agile and modern.
74. The Assembly noted the report of the Director General.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 1
Director General's Report on 2022 WOA Activities

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

Current animal health situation worldwide: analysis of events and trends

(Doc. 90 SG/2)

76. Dr Idoyaga Benítez introduced Dr Jenny Hutchison, Head of the World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department (WAHIAD), and Dr Laure Weber-Vintzel, Head of the Data Integration Department (DID).
77. The “Current animal health situation worldwide in regard to selected global strategies and infection with LSD virus: analysis of events and trends”, summarised by Dr Hutchison and Dr Weber-Vintzel, focused on four areas. The first section provided an update on the state of play of WAHIS modernisation and reporting by Members. The second section presented an update on infection with lumpy skin disease (LSD) virus, for which epizootic situations have been observed in 2022. The third section focused on indicators on the progress made by Members in relation to selected global animal disease control or eradication strategies. Finally, the role of DID was briefly highlighted. Dr Hutchison and Dr Weber-Vintzel thanked Delegates and Focal Points for their efforts in data sharing and underlined the importance of this information and the support mechanisms put in place by WOAHA to support its Members.
78. Mexico, on behalf of the 32 Members of the Americas region, commended the progress and ongoing efforts made by WOAHA to improve access to data and data analysis and interpretation.
79. Senegal reacted to the presentation on the global situation of LSD and informed the Assembly that passive surveillance and annual vaccination campaigns conducted in Senegal since 2008 had reduced the incidence of the disease. However, he reported an increase in morbidity in 2022. He asked the speakers to comment on possible reasons for the change in the behaviour of the disease and the potential links with climate change and the evolution of the virus.
80. Sweden, on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU¹¹, highlighted that rapid alert sharing was essential for WOAHA Members. The EU Members expressed their concern that the document 90 SG/2 addressed the epidemiological spread and risks only for LSD, as other diseases also represented global risks in terms of animal health and should have warranted a section describing their recent epidemiological spread. The EU Members expressed their concern regarding the risk of the foot and mouth disease (FMD) SAT-2 serotype, expressing their gratitude for the efforts put in place by Türkiye (Rep. of) to contain this serotype. *Another risk recognised by the EU is a consequence of the unprovoked Russian aggression against Ukraine, jeopardizing the application of proper animal health measures in Ukraine, and therefore increasing the risk for animal diseases’ outbreaks in the EU*¹². The EU Members drew attention to the percentage of reporting Members declaring surveillance activities for listed diseases. While some values for FMD and peste des petits ruminants (PPR) appeared to be encouraging, ASF, rabies and diseases in farmed aquatic animals left room for improvement. The EU Members encouraged all WOAHA Members to ensure that the percentage of Members with relevant surveillance activities continue to increase swiftly. Considering the close link between surveillance and sufficient diagnostic capacity, the EU Members requested that an increased effort be made to ensure that Members improve their diagnostic capacity and that arrangements for the swift sending of samples to WOAHA Reference Laboratories be put in place. The EU Members thanked WOAHA for supporting the linking of the EU’s Animal Disease Information System (ADIS) with WAHIS and for including ADIS in the WAHIS Kiosk.

¹¹ EU: European Union

¹² Quote from the declaration by the 27 EU Member States

81. Chad commented on the PPR situation. The Delegate noted that most countries had developed eradication plans for 2030. He stressed the importance of controlling animal movements, not only within countries, but also between countries, to prevent the spread of the disease. He added that animal movements between countries and regions should be taken into account in the control and eradication of PPR.
82. Algeria recognised that WAHIS data facilitated risk analysis for decision making in the area of trade. As regards the statistics presented, the Delegate asked whether statistics could be shared regarding the evolution of pathogens worldwide, especially with respect to zoonoses.
83. In response to Senegal, Dr Hutchison recognised that to best address the question posed, a discussion with experts would be needed, as well as the collection of more information on circulating virus strains.
84. In response to Sweden, Dr Hutchison explained that the content of the report on animal health was limited to make the report concise and readable, based on the decision made at the end of 2022. She pointed out that priority topics discussed at Conferences of Regional Commissions were always taken into account in the selection of the topics covered by the SG/2 report. She acknowledged that the global disease situation kept evolving from the time the topics were selected to the time they were presented.
85. In response to Chad, Dr Weber-Vintzel confirmed that movement controls were important to prevent the spread of all transboundary animal diseases. She also emphasised that the presented data were as reported by Members, without indication of their level of implementation on the ground.
86. In response to Algeria, Dr Weber-Vintzel stated that an update on selected diseases of importance for each region was given during the WOA Regional Conferences. She proposed that statistics on the evolution of pathogens, in particular with regard to zoonoses, could be analysed in consultation with regional Members.
87. Benin asked how he could obtain information on the work done on LSD by the Scientific Commission and the Biological Standards Commission. The Delegate also noted that, according to the information presented, a high percentage of Members reported disease surveillance in terrestrial domestic species, while the percentages were lower for diseases in terrestrial wildlife and aquatic animals. He acknowledged the slight improvement shown and questioned what could be done to further improve the situation. He suggested increasing the skilled workforce.
88. New Zealand, on behalf of the QUADs Alliance¹³ countries, joined the EU Members in condemning the situation between Russia and Ukraine, highlighting the negative consequences for animal welfare and global food security. The QUADs Alliance expressed its commitment to strengthening the global rules-based order to support a peaceful and prosperous world.
89. Dr Idoyaga Benítez closed the session.

Activities of the Working Groups

Working Group on Wildlife

(Doc. 90 SG/11/GT1)

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

¹³ QUADs Alliance: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America

91. The Working Group had responded to multiple requests from WOAAH during the year. It had been working closely with WOAAH, the WOAAH Specialist Commissions, and relevant *ad hoc* Groups on priority issues including SARS-CoV-2, the implications of avian influenza for wild animals, and the risks of spill-over events through wildlife trade. The Working Group developed several guidelines to support risk management in these areas.
92. The Working Group had been advising WOAAH on how to improve and update the WOAAH global system for wildlife disease reporting. It had been discussing the value of enhanced disease surveillance and reporting, and had been informed about the Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources (EIOS) system and 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). Dr Karesh encouraged Members to continue reporting disease events through the existing WOAAH system until a new system had been developed.
93. Dr Karesh encouraged Delegates to reach out to their CITES national contact point to discuss approaches to expedite international shipment of diagnostic specimens taken from wildlife.
94. Dr Karesh reminded Members that WOAAH could provide technical support in responding to events that threatened wildlife health.
95. Members of the Working Group had been involved in several activities at regional level and had provided advice on reviewing and updating the terms of reference for WOAAH national Focal Points for Wildlife. A major event had been a side event hosted by WOAAH at the Wildlife Disease Association annual conference with over 500 wildlife health experts in attendance.
96. The Working Group encouraged and supported WOAAH’s initiative to engage with a broader range of international partners working with wildlife including CITES and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
97. Dr Karesh expressed the Working Group’s deep sense of loss following the recent death of Prof. Marie-Pierre Ryser-Degiorgis. She had provided tremendous service to WOAAH. He thanked the government of Switzerland for supporting her over the years.
98. **Composition of the 2023 Working Group on Wildlife:**
 - Dr William B. Karesh (United States of America) (Chair)
 - Dr Marcela Uhart (Argentina)
 - Dr Rupert Woods (Australia)
 - Prof. Koichi Murata (Japan)
 - Dr Markus Hofmeyr (South Africa)
 - Dr Jonathan Sleeman (United States of America)
99. The President of WOAAH thanked Dr Karesh for his comprehensive presentation and opened the floor for discussion.
100. Chile emphasised that the avian influenza situation provided an opportunity to promote One Health approach because it highlighted the importance of coordination between multiple authorities including those responsible for Veterinary Services, the environment and public health.
101. Panama stressed that in light of the increased attention and appreciation of civil society, Veterinary Services had an opportunity to position themselves as leaders in reducing threats, including avian influenza and other zoonoses, at the human-animal-environment interface.
102. Dr Karesh agreed with both Delegates and emphasised that One Health also provided opportunities to share resources between sectors, which could be beneficial in low resource settings. In situations where resources were abundant, coordination was particularly important, especially before emergencies occurred.

Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance ([Doc. 90 SG/11/GT2](#))

103. Dr Tomoko Ishibashi, Chair of the Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, presented an overview of the activities of the Working Group since the previous General Session and the outcomes of the bi-annual meetings of the Working Group, which were held virtually from 4 to 6 October 2022, and in hybrid mode at WOAHA Headquarters from 28 to 30 March 2023 and of its extraordinary meeting held on 3 August 2022, to review the progress of the work of its subgroups.
104. The activities of this Working Group throughout the period covered by the report focused mainly on the revision and endorsement of species-specific Technical Reference Documents Listing Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance, for Aquatic Animals and Swine (hereafter, the [Technical Document for Aquatic Animals and Technical Document for Swine](#)) which have now been published as annexes of the Working Group October 2022 report. Development of the Technical Document for Bovine Animals and the Technical Document for Cats and Dogs by *ad hoc* groups chaired by Working Group members had now started and was due to be completed during 2024. Moreover, the Working Group is currently revising Chapter 6.10. of the *Terrestrial Code*. ‘Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine’ following the comments provided by Members and would be submitted for consideration by the Code Commission in August 2023.
105. **Composition of the 2023 Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance:**
- Dr Tomoko Ishibashi (Japan) (Chair)
 - Dr Stephen Page (Australia)
 - Dr Fajer Sabah Al Salloom (Bahrain)
 - Dr Barbara Freischem (The Netherlands)
 - Prof. Moritz van Vuuren (South Africa) – up to the end of 2023
 - Dr Donald Prater (United States of America)
106. The presentation was welcomed by the Members and no further points were raised.

Regional Activities Highlights

107. The President introduced the Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives, who then presented the highlights of the activities of their respective regions.
108. **Africa: One Health approach in Africa**

Dr Karim Tounkara, WOAHA Regional Representative for Africa, presented the activities of some global initiatives under the One Health approach and the outcomes in Africa, with a particular focus on rabies and AMR¹⁴ projects.

Dr Tounkara stated that rabies elimination projects implemented in Namibia and Cameroon had provided support for the development and implementation of national strategic plans. In addition, 30 Members in Africa had benefited from over 10 million vaccine doses supported by the WOAHA Rabies Vaccine Bank. Regarding AMR, 10 Members had benefited from AMR-MPTF¹⁵ funding to conduct awareness, national action plans and laboratory capacity building. Focal points for Veterinary Products had been trained on the submission of AMU data via the ANIMUSE digital platform.

¹⁴ AMR: antimicrobial resistance

¹⁵ AMR-MPTF: Antimicrobial Resistance Multi-Partner Trust Fund

Dr Tounkara noted that providing support to Members to strengthen multisectoral collaboration was the backbone of the One Health approach. Initiatives included training Members through the IHR/PVS national bridging workshops, providing support to rabies networks, among others. Capacity-building support was also provided through the EBO-SURSY project, involving development and training on surveillance plans, and the PROVNA project, addressing ecosystem-based surveillance of vector-borne diseases. Members were better prepared to rapidly detect and respond to the emergence of the five targeted haemorrhagic diseases: RVF, ebola, Lassa fever, Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever and Marburg virus.

The impact of these activities contributed to more Members developing their national control programmes, and a reduction in the incidence of rabies in dogs and humans. Dr Tounkara noted that this progress was catalysing support from and confidence among donors, including through support via AMR-MTPF projects.

In conclusion, Dr Tounkara stated that support to Members to strengthen multisectoral collaboration, also thanks to the Regional Quadripartite, had resulted in the nomination of One Health catalysts, the establishment of One Health National platforms and some of them overseen at higher government authority level, as well as Regional Platforms in the Regional Economic Communities.

109. **Americas: Antimicrobial resistance and use: Americas' experience**

Dr Luis Barcos, WOAHA Regional Representative for the Americas, highlighted the existing strong collaboration between international and regional organisations in the Region. This model of inter-agency coordination had led to the implementation, since 2019, of the EU-funded AMR project “Working together to fight antimicrobial resistance”. The project was supporting the strengthening of national action plans against AMR of seven Members and was used as a model for the development of a similar project in Asia and the Pacific. Some of the main outcomes of the project, highlighted by the Regional Representative, were the identification of potential national PPP projects to fight AMR, implementation of capacity-building activities (more than 1 400 people trained to date), and the organisation of the first Quadripartite Regional Webinar, organised in the framework of the 2022 World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW), addressing the prevention of AMR in aquatic animals. Members had also been supported to develop national communication campaigns. He noted that the development of an application for scanning veterinary products to verify their registration for use, the development of e-learning modules and training on the new ANIMUSE system were already planned.

Dr Barcos mentioned some outcomes of an AMR project in Peru, which was being funded by a Multi-Partner Trust Fund. He noted that the project was due to end in 2023. A set of “Guidelines on Good Antimicrobial Usage Practices” covering both terrestrial and aquatic animals had been developed. The collaboration with the National AMR Multisectoral Commission aimed to update the AMR National Action Plan, involving the quadripartite FAO-WOAH-WHO/Pan American Health Organization as well as the environmental agencies, and to improve liaison with other sectors and stakeholders.

Dr Barcos concluded by noting that, given the success of these two projects, the Region would continue to seek partners to address this urgent matter and support Members in the implementation of their AMR national action plans.

110. Asia-and the Pacific: The Regional Collaboration Framework on Aquatic Animal Health in Asia and the Pacific

Dr Hirofumi Kugita, WOAHP Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, started by acknowledging the useful interventions by those Members who had requested an update on the WOAHP Aquatic Animal Health Strategy (AAHS) and he offered encouragement for activities in this area.

He highlighted the value of aquaculture globally and the high contribution of the Asia and the Pacific Region to total global production. He pointed out that the Region had experienced an increase in emerging disease occurrence, such as acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (AHPND) and tilapia lake virus. During the WOAHP Expert Consultation Meeting on Aquatic Animal Disease Diagnosis and Control in November 2018, the need to address the challenges of these diseases, including proficiency testing, test validation and coordinated emergency response, had been identified. The Regional Collaboration Framework on Aquatic Animal Health in Asia and the Pacific (the Framework) was established and endorsed by the Regional Commission in September 2018.

Dr Kugita stated that the Framework was an excellent mechanism to operationalise the AAHS to meet regional needs and strengthen collaboration. Several international and regional stakeholders were involved in the network, including the WOAHP community and partner organisations. He pointed out that the three flagship activities under the Framework had improved biosecurity and awareness in small-scale farms, mapped AHPND test methods in the Region and strengthened regional collaborations for rapid response to emerging diseases.

Dr Kugita noted that, following the success of the regional network in Asia and the Pacific, together with the launch of the AAHS, regional aquatic networks for the Middle East (AQMENET), and for North Africa (RAAHN-NA) had been established. He stated that other regions were currently working to establish regional networks.

Dr Kugita concluded by remarking that these networks were intended to promote collaboration on aquatic animal health issues of common concern, thereby improving the overall health, productivity and resilience of the Region through the implementation of WOAHP's AAHS.

111. Europe: WOAHP Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe

Dr Estelle Hamelin, WOAHP Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels, started her presentation with background information on the Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe (the Platform). She pointed out that 2023 was the final year of implementation of the Platform's third action plan and that the fourth action plan was due to begin in 2024. The same five priority topics that were identified for the third action plan, namely transport of animals, slaughter, dog population management, animal welfare in natural disasters and welfare of working equids, would be maintained.

Dr Hamelin elaborated on the alignment and integration of the Platform with the WOAHP Global Animal Welfare Strategy and presented regional activities conducted under the four pillars of this Strategy: (i) Development of animal welfare standards, (ii) Capacity building and education, (iii) Implementation of animal welfare standards and policies, and (iv) Communication with governments, organisations and the public. Some of the main achievements and impacts included development of contingency plans for animal welfare during natural disasters by three Members and the self-assessment tool that supported five Members to develop action plans for dog population management (DPM) in line with WOAHP standards and was also used to measure the level of implementation of standards on DPM. Multiregional workshops on long-distance transportation by land and sea between Europe, North Africa and the Middle East were held to strengthen collaboration and experience sharing between Competent Authorities to facilitate the journeys.

Dr Hamelin explained the alignment and articulation of the Global Animal Welfare Strategy and the regional action plan with WOA's Seventh Strategic Plan to respond to Members' needs, and she indicated that the Multi-regional Whole Journey Scenario was a result of requests by Members. The consortium of Collaborating Centres on Animal Welfare was actively engaged in and supported the activities of the Platform.

She concluded by stating that, through its activities, the Platform promoted the building of trust and collaboration between partners to work towards better animal welfare and better animal health.

112. Middle East: Public-Private Partnership and the implementation of WOA standards in the Middle East

Dr Mohamed Alhosani, WOA Acting Regional Representative for the Middle East, and the Sub-Regional Representative in Abu Dhabi, started his presentation by stating the importance of a strong PPP in the veterinary domain and WOA areas of support. He gave examples of the PVS Pathway with integrated PPPs within the targeted support programmes, and he referred to the WOA PPP Handbook describing the building of partnerships and the open access and interactive PPP database. He also mentioned WOA's e-learning courses on PPP that had benefitted over 3000 participants. He briefly explained the procedure for Members to request PPP targeted support based on the recommendations of the PVS mission reports.

Dr Alhosani elaborated on one example of a PPP in the Middle East Region, regarding the facilitation of international movement of competition horses through a partnership between WOA and IHSC¹⁶ via a collaboration agreement of 2017. He highlighted some key outcomes of the IHSC-WOA partnership, such as building diagnostic capabilities for equine-related diseases, supporting the update of WOA standards for horse-related diseases and development and implementation of tools to facilitate the safe international movement of competition horses such as HHP¹⁷ and EDFZ¹⁸ guidelines. He stated that regional workshops had brought together key stakeholders to discuss procedures to facilitate international safe movements.

Dr Alhosani then stated that lessons learnt from this partnership were being applied to the Camel Middle East Network (CAMENET), established in 2016 to improve camel health and welfare. Some key objectives of CAMENET included facilitation of collaboration with WOA Reference Centres, coordinated surveillance and control of camel diseases, including emerging diseases, and the development and validation of specific diagnostic methods for major camel diseases according to WOA standards. He added that, within the CAMENET framework, work would also be carried out to facilitate the movement of racing camels by adapting the principles defined for the movement of competition horses.

113. The President thanked the Representatives for their excellent presentations on the regional activities.

¹⁶ IHSC: International Horse Sports Confederation

¹⁷ HHP: high-health, high performance

¹⁸ EDFZ: equine disease-free zone

■ WEDNESDAY 24 MAY 2023 ■

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

([Doc. 90 SG/10/CS1](#))

114. Dr Etienne Bonbon, President of the Code Commission, reported on the work of the Commission since the previous General Session.
115. Dr Bonbon stated that the Commission had met twice since the 2022 General Session. These meetings were held physically from 13 to 22 September 2022, and from 7 to 17 February 2023. He expressed his gratitude to the members of the Code Commission, Dr Gaston Funes (Vice-President), Prof. Salah Hammami (Vice-President), Dr Lucio Ignacio Carbajo Goñi, Dr Kiyokazu Murai and Dr Bernardo Todeschini, for their expert contributions, dedication and commitment to the work of the Commission, including their participation in *ad hoc* Group meetings and representing the Commission at regional or international meetings.
116. On behalf of the Commission, Dr Bonbon commended the Reference Centre experts, members of *ad hoc* Groups and experts from Members for their contribution to the work of the Commission. He also expressed his appreciation to the members of the other Specialist Commissions for their advice and support and acknowledged the strengthened collaboration and coordination among the four Specialist Commissions in the standard-setting process. In this regard, Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that the Bureaus of the Code Commission and the Aquatic Animals Commission had met in September 2022, the Bureaus of the Code Commission and the Biological Standards Commission had met in September 2022, and the Bureaus of the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission had met in February 2023.
117. Dr Bonbon highlighted that a new approach had been taken for the working document distributed for this session (Doc. 90 SG/10/CS1), which provided key background information for each of the new and revised texts of the *Terrestrial Code* to be presented for adoption. Dr Bonbon reminded the Assembly that the details of the Code Commission's activities since the last General Session had been published in the Commission's September 2022 and February 2023 meeting reports, which were available on the Delegates' website as well as on the WOAHP website.
118. Dr Bonbon expressed his appreciation for the large number of comments submitted by Members and by international organisations having a cooperation agreement with WOAHP on texts that had been circulated for comment. He highlighted the improving quality of those comments and stressed that the standard-setting process could only be effective with the engagement of Members. Dr Bonbon reminded Members that the Commission's reports included the Commission's considerations of comments received. He encouraged Members to refer to the Commission's previous reports for more details about the amended texts being proposed for adoption.
119. Dr Bonbon also commended the Code Commission Secretariat at WOAHP Headquarters for the support provided to the work of the Commission, including relevant *ad hoc* Groups.
120. Dr Bonbon informed Delegates that the new and revised chapters to be proposed for adoption in the *Terrestrial Code* were presented in Annexes 4 to 22 of Doc. 90 SG/10/CS1.

121. Texts proposed for adoption

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

122. Chapter 8.8. Infection with foot and mouth disease virus

Dr Bonbon explained that the Commission had undertaken a comprehensive revision of Chapter 8.8. He explained the main amendments being proposed and provided a summary of the process undertaken to develop them, noting that the revised text had been circulated five times for comments.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

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

Argentina, on behalf of the 31 Members of the WOAHA Americas region, thanked the Commission for its work and supported the adoption of Chapter 8.8. as presented. Argentina highlighted that the proposed changes would be beneficial for fair, equitable and secure international trade.

Australia thanked the President of the Code Commission and supported the adoption of the chapter except for the proposed changes to Article 8.8.35., specifically the changes to the requirements for the inactivation of foot and mouth disease virus (FMDV) in milk. Australia pointed out that FMDV was known to be present in milk and dairy products from animals that had been infected with FMDV and noted that the proposed changes did not manage the biosecurity risk of FMDV transmission in milk and milk products. Firstly, the article did not specify the end use, which could imply these milk and milk products being fed directly to susceptible animals. Australia noted previous responses from the Commission in this regard and highlighted that there were studies that demonstrated that FMDV remained infectious in milk after heat treatments equal to or exceeding the parameters outlined in the proposed article.

Eswatini, on behalf of the 54 Members of the Africa Union and the WOAHA Africa region, commended the work of the Code Commission and supported the adoption of the chapter but requested a change to point 6 of Article 8.8.1. Eswatini requested that the use of the term ‘ruminant’ in this point be reconsidered, in order to align with the proposed removal of the term ‘ruminant’ in point 2 of the same article.

Denmark, on behalf of the 27 Members of the EU, thanked the Code Commission for its work but stated that they could not support the adoption of the proposed chapter. The EU Members’ main objection was to the provisions that allowed the importation of vaccinated animals into a country or zone officially free from FMD where vaccination is not practised. The EU Members considered that, due to the distinct level of risk this practice entailed, as shown by the additional mitigating measures which would be required, the risk could not be considered negligible.

Hungary, on behalf of the 27 Members of the EU, did not support the adoption of the proposed chapter and noted that in addition to the increased risks from importing animals vaccinated against FMD into FMD-free countries where vaccination is not practised, there would be significant additional administrative burdens that the importing country would need to bear to maintain its officially recognised status by WOAHA, specifically surveillance requirements to differentiate the vaccinated imported animals from the non-vaccinated population, which would require a full animal identification scheme.

Thailand, speaking on behalf of the 32 Members of the Asia-Pacific region, thanked the Code Commission for its work and supported the adoption of the proposed chapter. Thailand recognised the important changes being proposed to the chapter, particularly the amendments introduced to support the safe international trade of vaccinated animals from FMD-free countries.

Portugal, on behalf of the 27 Members of the EU, did not support the adoption of the proposed chapter and expressed its concerns that Chapter 1.11. Application for official recognition by WOAHP of free status for FMD was not being updated at the same time as Chapter 8.8. The EU Members noted several of the proposed changes that it considered would have consequences for Chapter 1.11. The EU Members noted the response provided by the Code Commission on this comment in its February 2023 meeting but considered that guidance on what information needed to be submitted in the annual reconfirmation procedure should be included in WOAHP international standards and not in any other form which would not undergo validation by the Assembly.

Dr Bonbon thanked the Members from the WOAHP Americas, Africa, and Asia-Pacific Regions who had expressed support for the adoption of the proposed chapter.

In response to the comment from Australia, Dr Bonbon noted the concern about the measures provided in Article 8.8.35. for the inactivation of FMDV in milk and milk products and pointed out that the article provided several alternatives. He requested the Delegate to submit written comments to the Commission as to the specific measures that he considered were not adequate for inactivation.

In response to the comment from Eswatini, Dr Bonbon explained that the species covered by the chapter were clearly defined in point 2 of Article 8.8.1., and that point 6 was not intended to expand on these, but to state that FMDV may persist in the pharynx and associated lymph nodes of ruminants. Dr Bonbon requested the Delegate to submit a clear proposal to the Commission as to what specific change in the text would be considered necessary to address his concerns.

Regarding the comment from Denmark, speaking on behalf of the 27 Members of the EU, on the proposed amendments that would give the possibility for FMD-free countries or zones where vaccination is not practised to introduce vaccinated animals to FMD-free countries without affecting their animal health status, Dr Bonbon emphasised that these provisions referred to animals from FMD free countries, which had demonstrated the absence of virus circulation. He noted that the Commission had agreed to include the requirement for serological and virological testing of the animals before importation to provide additional assurance and that this might seem to be an inconsistency. He also acknowledged that such importations required additional surveillance because it would generate the coexistence of animals of two different serological statuses, similar to when free countries transition their status due to the stopping of vaccination and emphasised that this was each country's responsibility.

In response to the comment by Portugal, speaking on behalf of the 27 Members of the EU, Dr Bonbon acknowledged that, although it was not a fixed rule, sometimes the revision of the corresponding 'questionnaire' chapter was done at the same time as a chapter was being revised, but that on this occasion the Commission, in agreement with the Scientific Commission, had considered that it was not necessary to propose the revised Chapter 8.8. for adoption at the same time. Nevertheless, he agreed that some of the amendments being proposed, such as the changes to surveillance in wildlife, would require the questionnaire to be amended in the context of WOAHP official status recognition procedures.

Japan thanked the Commission and reiterated a comment previously submitted, that noted a discrepancy between the opinions expressed by the Code Commission and the Biological Standards Commission about the diagnostic tests recommended in Article 8.8.11. for the importation of domestic ruminants and pigs from countries, zones or compartments free from FMD where vaccination is practised, and requested that this inconsistency be discussed and agreed upon by these two Commissions.

China (People's Rep. of) thanked the Commission for its work and noted the role of African buffalo, as a carrier of FMDV, in the epidemiology of the disease, which was also backed by the notification of FMD outbreaks in which Members had indicated contact with wild buffaloes as a possible source. China (People's Rep. of) stressed the importance of clearly specifying in the chapter that buffaloes can transmit the disease and that strong separation from other populations should be required to achieve FMD-free status.

New Zealand requested that 'milk powder' and 'butter' be included in the list of safe commodities in Article 8.8.1bis. Additionally, it requested that, in point 3 of Article 8.2.2., the text 'current knowledge of the distribution, and habitat' be amended to 'current knowledge of the distribution, or habitat'.

Argentina thanked Dr Bonbon for his responses and highlighted that the changes to Article 8.8.2. being discussed referred to the importation of vaccinated animals from free zones or countries that had presented the necessary evidence to be officially recognised as such by WOAHP, and not to infected animals. It stressed that the standards in the *Terrestrial Code* for the trade of animals and other commodities with appropriate mitigation measures, implied that these commodities were safe with regard to the specific disease, and therefore their importation did not imply a risk and therefore should not affect their animal health status. Argentina also highlighted the extensive experience and technology in terms of vaccines and DIVA tests for FMD that supported the risk mitigation in these movements, and emphasised that there was sufficient evidence of progress in this new paradigm, which Members had discussed in the previous days with regard to the *Terrestrial Code* Chapter on HPAI, in the sense that the use of safe vaccines should not negatively affect the free status of a zone or country if surveillance capable of demonstrating the absence of infection was applied. Argentina reiterated its support for the adoption of the proposed chapter.

Dr Bonbon noted the comment from Japan and reminded Members that the opinion expressed by the Biological Standards Commission referred specifically to the diagnostic tests, but that the Biological Standards Commission had not provided a detailed opinion on the interpretation of these tests in the context of the revised article. Dr Bonbon agreed that further discussions with the Biological Standards Commission would be undertaken to clarify this point.

In response to the comment from China (People's Rep. of), Dr Bonbon noted that the role of buffaloes was well defined in point 6 of Article 8.8.1. Regarding the observation on the need for physical barriers for the protection of free populations, Dr Bonbon stressed that it was not the intention, nor would it be possible, to include in the standards extensive details for all circumstances. Dr Bonbon reminded Members that Article 8.8.2. required that Members apply the necessary measures to prevent the introduction and spread of the disease but that it was the responsibility of Members to define the most suitable measures for their own context and that the relevant evidence should be provided in the dossier for official status recognition.

In response to the requests from New Zealand, Dr Bonbon noted the request for consideration of milk and butter as 'safe commodities' but reminded Members that to be listed as a safe commodity, evidence should demonstrate the absence of the pathogenic agent in the traded commodity, either due to its absence in the tissues from which the commodity was derived or to its inactivation by the processing or treatment that the animal products had undergone. In this regard, he referred to the comment from Australia emphasising the need for measures to inactivate FMDV in milk as a possible contradictory view and invited the Member to submit the necessary evidence for the Commission to consider such a request.

Dr Bonbon noted the comments made and recognised that some of them were too detailed to be resolved during a plenary session and some would require dedicated discussions with the Biological Standards Commission and the Scientific Commission. Taking this into consideration, Dr Bonbon proposed that the chapter be adopted as proposed and that the Commission would address the different issues raised by Members at its September 2023 meeting.

The President requested the opinion of the Members on this proposal.

Sweden, on behalf of the 27 Members of the EU, thanked Dr Bonbon for the responses provided and stressed that, despite these explanations, the EU Members did not support the adoption of the chapter as proposed.

Dr Bonbon thanked the Members for their feedback and acknowledged the diverging views expressed by Members. Noting the importance of the chapter in terms of its impact on national policies and international trade, he expressed his preference to continue working towards building consensus rather than calling for a vote, and to withdraw the proposed chapter. He stressed that the Commission would continue working on the chapter to develop a new proposal for adoption but highlighted that the Commission was convinced of the sound scientific basis of the proposed amendments. He also noted that the Commission would progress the review of Chapter 1.11. and highlighted the need for close collaboration with the Biological Standards Commission and the Scientific Commission on the relevant points raised by Members.

Dr Bonbon indicated that the Code Commission would consider comments discussed at this General Session, as well as any additional comments submitted to WOAHP by Members before 5 July, at its next meeting in September 2023 and he stated that a revised chapter would be presented to the Assembly at the 2024 General Session.

At the end of the session, Uruguay, speaking on behalf of the 31 Members of the WOAHP Americas region, expressed their concern and disappointment that the proposed chapter had been withdrawn from adoption because of the extended period that this chapter had been under review and that the proposed modifications had already considered extensive comments submitted by Members, which had been analysed and addressed with scientific rigour by the *ad hoc* Group, the Scientific Commission, the Biological Standards Commission, and the Code Commission. Uruguay expressed its commitment to continue to provide comments on the revised chapter that the Commission would be circulating in its September 2023 meeting report and to ensure consistency with approaches in other chapters regarding vaccination not affecting disease-free status, as Members had agreed for avian influenza.

Colombia supported the comment from Uruguay.

123. Articles 8.14.6bis., 8.14.7. and 8.14.11bis. of Chapter 8.14. Infection with rabies virus

Dr Bonbon explained that the Commission had proposed to partially revise the chapter. The Commission proposed to amend the provisions for the importation of dogs from infected countries or zones with a new Article 8.14.6bis. and a revised Article 8.14.7., and to add a new Article 8.14.11bis. on recommendations for dog-mediated rabies vaccination programmes. He noted that the revised text had been circulated four times for comments.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised texts to the Assembly.

Estonia, on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, thanked the Commission for its work. The EU Members did not support the proposal in Article 8.14.6bis. to reduce the waiting period after the antibody titration test and prior to the movement of dogs, from the current 3 months to 30 days. They reminded the Assembly that, as expressed in comments submitted to the Commission, their position was based on an assessment of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) which had concluded that this would imply an increased risk of importing

rabies-infected dogs for a region like the EU where rabies had long been a focus for eradication to protect human and animal health.

Côte d'Ivoire, on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the WOAHA Africa Region, did not support the adoption of the proposed changes to the provisions for the importation of dogs from infected countries or zones, as it considered that further research was needed to support such changes.

New Zealand, on behalf of the QUADs Alliance, did not support the proposed changes to Article 8.14.6bis. and Article 8.14.7., but recognised the value of the other changes being proposed, notably the new 8.14.11bis. on recommendations for dog-mediated rabies vaccination programmes, and would only support the adoption of this article.

Burkina Faso, on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the WOAHA Africa Region, requested that the changes in Article 8.14.6bis. and Article 8.14.7. be postponed, so that further scientific evidence could be developed.

Switzerland did not support the adoption of the proposed changes to Article 8.14.6bis. and Article 8.14.7.

Gabon, on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the WOAHA Africa Region, supported the comments of Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire.

Barbados did not support the adoption of the proposed Article 8.14.6bis. and Article 8.14.7.

Dr Bonbon acknowledged the comments opposing the adoption of the proposed amendments to the provisions for the importation of dogs from infected countries or zones and reiterated the position expressed by the Code Commission, in agreement with the Scientific Commission, that the proposed amendments were supported by sound scientific evidence and had been recommended by experts. Dr Bonbon noted that Members could take measures more stringent than those recommended in the standards, if based on a risk analysis in line with the provisions of the *Code*. Nonetheless, noting the high number of Members indicating their opposition, and the fact that their opposition referred to only one aspect of the proposed modifications, he proposed that only the new article 8.14.11bis. be proposed for adoption and that Articles 8.14.6bis. and 8.14.7. be withdrawn.

The President acknowledged the proposal and requested the opinion of the Assembly.

Sweden, on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, thanked Dr Bonbon for the consideration of their concerns and expressed support for the adoption of the proposed Article 8.14.11bis. only.

Côte d'Ivoire, on behalf of the 54 Members of the African Union and the WOAHA Africa Region, expressed support for the proposal.

The President presented the new Article 8.14.11 bis. to the Assembly for adoption.

The proposed new Article 8.14.11 bis. was adopted unanimously.

124. **Chapter 8.15. Infection with Rift Valley fever virus**

Dr Bonbon explained that the Commission had proposed a comprehensive revision of Chapter 8.15. He explained the main amendments being proposed and noted that the revised text had been circulated six times for comments.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Eswatini, speaking on behalf of the 54 countries of the African Union and WOAHAfrica Region, asked for clarifications on the inter-epidemic period as described in Article 8.15.1. and the period of ten years outlined in point 2 a) of Article 8.15.3. Eswatini also questioned the absence of a reference to the use of vaccines in relation to recognition of freedom.

Dr Bonbon explained that an inter-epidemic period of the disease was variable and was defined as the period between two epidemics; however, Article 8.15.3. provided recommendations for country or zone freedom, and point 2 a) recommended that the length of time during which a surveillance programme should have demonstrated no evidence of infection was a minimum of ten years. Dr Bonbon reiterated that Article 8.15.3. did not refer to an inter-epidemic period of the disease.

In response to Eswatini's second concern, Dr Bonbon clarified that vaccines were used in countries to avoid an epidemic following a warning of such a risk. He added that vaccines were usually administered where endemicity existed so as to avoid spread, and there was therefore no relation with freedom status.

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

125. Article 10.9.1. of Chapter 10.9. Infection with Newcastle disease virus

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that Article 10.9.1. of Chapter 10.9. Infection with Newcastle disease virus had been amended to delete the definition for 'poultry' as this is a defined term in the Glossary of the *Terrestrial Code*. He noted that the revised article had been circulated three times for comments.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

126. Chapter 11.4. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy

Dr Bonbon explained that the Commission had proposed a comprehensive revision of Chapter 11.4. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy. He reminded the Assembly that the chapter had been revised in response to a range of Member comments since the proposal for adoption of the chapter had been withdrawn at the 89th General Session. He explained the main amendments and provided a summary of the process undertaken to develop them, and noted that the new revised Chapter 11.4. had been circulated seven times for comments.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Zimbabwe, speaking on behalf of the 54 Member States of the African Union and the WOAHAfrica Region, stated that they did not support the adoption of Chapters 11.4. and 1.8. Zimbabwe highlighted that the BSE surveillance, i.e. passive surveillance, that is described in the revised chapter did not change the fundamental requirement of testing nor substantially reduce the associated costs, and thus there would be very few African countries that would be able to meet the conditions to apply for official recognition by WOAHA of their BSE risk status. Additionally, Zimbabwe expressed concerns about the additional requirements outlined in point 2 of Article 11.4.18., including the identification and reporting

of animals targeted for BSE surveillance, determining which animals should undergo laboratory testing, and conducting follow-up epidemiological investigations for BSE-positive cases. Zimbabwe considered that these requirements would further contribute to the cost of implementing standards for a disease that had never occurred in some regions.

Japan expressed its general support for the proposed chapter. However, Japan wished to request that WOAHA consider its request for a two-year transition period to allow Members to adequately prepare for and effectively implement the revised surveillance provisions. Japan advocated for a minimum two-year transition period, as opposed to the currently proposed one year, pointing out that the administrative processes by the national Veterinary Authority to initiate new surveillance could only occur once the chapters were adopted, and would be conditioned by countries' fiscal year, which would require more than one year to be effectively implemented and might make it difficult to provide surveillance data in accordance with the new standards for the annual reconfirmation in 2024.

China (People's Rep. of), noting that cases of atypical BSE were being reported almost every year globally and that research of atypical BSE have shown that atypical BSE agents could be transmitted in cattle through feed and could be transformed into classical BSE after passage, recommended that WOAHA continue to keep atypical BSE as a listed disease. China (People's Rep. of) emphasised that, with regard to Article 11.4.5bis., after the occurrence of atypical BSE, relevant Members should conduct investigations to find the cause of the disease or rule out the possibility of feed transmission, take control measures, and submit investigation reports, so as to maintain their WOAHA-recognised status of negligible/controlled BSE risk.

Austria, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, thanked the Commission for its work. Austria expressed general support for adoption of the revised chapter but considered that, for text related to recycling, it would be better to consider all BSE agents and not only the classical BSE agent, noting that the risk of recycling of atypical BSE could not be ruled out, as stated in point 1 of Article 11.4.1. Austria also suggested some editorial changes to the chapter for consideration by the Code Commission at its next meeting.

Uruguay, on behalf of the 31 Members of the WOAHA Americas region, appreciated the work carried out by WOAHA and supported the adoption of Chapters 11.4. and 1.8.

In response to the comment by Zimbabwe on behalf of the 54 Member States of the African Union and the WOAHA Africa Region, Dr Bonbon highlighted that one of objectives of the revision was to address Members' concerns about the feasibility of meeting the surveillance requirements outlined in the chapter, and he reminded Members that the new surveillance requirements had been developed by an *ad hoc* Group, and took these concerns into consideration. Dr Bonbon explained that it was up to each Member to decide what the targeted population was and how many of those animals were to be tested in accordance with the provisions of Article 11.4.18. He reiterated that the provisions would not require a lot of testing. Furthermore, with regard to the second concern raised, Dr Bonbon emphasised that it was not possible to rely only on clinical signs as they were not pathognomonic for either classical or atypical BSE and it was not possible to rely only on there being no reported BSE cases in the past when granting official BSE risk status, given that atypical BSE was assumed to occur spontaneously in any bovine population. Dr Bonbon explained that if Members wanted to obtain official BSE status, the recommendations needed to be complied with. He also highlighted that even Members with undetermined BSE risk could export bovine commodities in accordance with the relevant articles in the chapter and that no trade problem had been reported to WOAHA by the concerned countries in this respect.

In response to a comment from Japan, Dr Bonbon encouraged Japan to contact WOAHH Headquarters to discuss the transition period, given that this concern was not specific to the revised chapter being proposed.

In response to a comment on atypical BSE from China (People's Rep. of), Dr Bonbon reminded Members that atypical BSE had been assessed against the listing criteria described in Chapter 1.2. and that it had been concluded that it did not comply with the criteria. Dr Bonbon explained that a disease could be considered important in a country or region but not meet the listing criteria. Nevertheless, he emphasised that, although atypical BSE was not a listed disease, Members were required to submit relevant information on atypical BSE, i.e. data on surveillance and history of occurrence and management of bovines affected by atypical BSE in their dossier when applying for the official recognition of their BSE status by WOAHH, and for their annual reconfirmations.

In response to comments made by Austria on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, Dr Bonbon proposed making necessary amendments based on the proposal from Austria during this session, rather than discussing them at the September Code Commission meeting, given the Commission's busy work programme.

Republic of Korea generally supported the comment from China (People's Rep. of) on atypical BSE.

The United States of America proposed to amend the wording for the animal identification requirements described in Articles 11.4.7., 11.4.10., 11.4.12. and 11.4.13.

The United Kingdom thanked WOAHH for its work and supported the adoption of the revised chapter.

New Zealand proposed that point 4 of Article 11.4.3. should cover the food chain as well as the ruminant feed chain. New Zealand also supported the comment on animal identification from the United States of America.

In response to a comment from Republic of Korea, Dr Bonbon reiterated that WOAHH could follow the situation of the occurrence of atypical BSE over time through the annual reconfirmation.

With regard to the comments on the animal identification requirement, Dr Bonbon reminded Members that an 'animal identification system', as defined in the Glossary, meant that it could involve identification and registration not only of animals individually but also collectively by their epidemiological unit or group. He explained that using this term in the articles that the United States of America referred to, was aimed at avoiding misinterpretation and if this term were replaced with more lengthy explanations, it could cause confusion. Dr Bonbon also highlighted that the level of the animal identification system referred to in Articles 11.4.10., 11.4.12. and 11.4.13. for importation of animal products was not the same as that referred to in Article 11.4.7. for importation of live animals. Dr Bonbon explained that it might be difficult in terms of certification of exportation of bovine animals in the case where they had stayed in more than two countries, but he indicated that this issue would be resolved if the bovines were imported to the exporting country in accordance with the provisions described in the chapter. He also explained that if Members had concerns regarding the Glossary definition, these could be discussed at future Commission meetings.

Brazil supported the adoption of the proposed chapter.

In response to comments provided, Dr Bonbon proposed the following amendments to the proposed chapter to resolve some of the issues raised: to add "and food" after "feed" in point 4 of Article 11.4.3.; to replace "Articles 11.4.3. or 11.4.4." with "point 4 of Article 11.4.3." in the first paragraph of Article 11.4.5bis.; to add "were" before "derived" in point 3 c) i) of Article

11.4.10. (in the English version only); to add “clinical” before “presentation” in points 2 a), 2 c) and 2 d) of Article 11.4.18. (in the English and Spanish versions only); to replace “those presented as downers (non-ambulatory)” with “those which are unable to rise or walk without assistance” in point 2 c) of Article 11.4.18.

Japan pointed out that the second paragraph of point 2 of Article 11.4.18. also included the term ‘downer’ which had been amended in point 2 c) of Article 11.4.18.

In response to the comment from Japan, Dr Bonbon proposed to replace “a downer (non-ambulatory)” with “unable to rise or walk without assistance” in the second paragraph of point 2 of Article 11.4.18.

New Zealand sought clarification as to whether the term “feed chain” in point 4 of Article 11.4.3. was to be replaced with “ruminant feed or human food chain”.

Dr Bonbon clarified that his proposal was to add “or food” after “feed” given that the term ‘feed’ was defined as animal food in the Glossary, and not to add “ruminant” before “feed”, given that destruction of any cases of BSE or any bovines affected by atypical BSE as described in the point would result in none of them entering the feed or food chain.

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

The revised text was adopted, with one objection (China [People’s Rep. of]) and 10 abstentions.

127. Chapter 1.8. Application for official recognition by WOA of risk status for bovine spongiform encephalopathy

Dr Bonbon explained that the Commission had proposed a comprehensive revision of Chapter 1.8. Application for official recognition by WOA of risk status for bovine spongiform encephalopathy to ensure alignment with amendments proposed for Chapter 11.4. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy. He explained that the revised text had been developed and circulated as part of the process to review that chapter.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Austria, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, thanked the Commission for its work and expressed general support for adoption of the revised chapter but considered that, for texts related to recycling, it would be better to consider all BSE agents and not only the classical BSE agent, noting that the risk of recycling of atypical BSE could not be ruled out, as stated in point 1 of Article 11.4.1. Austria also suggested to clarify the term ‘downers’ in Table 1 of Article 1.8.6., to align with the amendment adopted in Chapter 11.4.

New Zealand pointed out that, whilst much of Article 1.8.5. referred specifically to the classical BSE agent, points 2 a) iv) and 2 a) v) referred to BSE agents, i.e. both classical and atypical BSE agents, and suggested that all the requirements specified in the article should refer to classical BSE only.

In response to the comment from Austria on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, Dr Bonbon proposed to replace “presented as downers (non-ambulatory)” with “unable to rise or walk without assistance”, for clarity.

In response to the comment made by New Zealand, Dr Bonbon explained that points 2 a) iv) and 2 a) v) should focus on classical BSE and he proposed to replace “BSE agents” with “the classical BSE agent” in both points.

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

128. **Glossary**

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that the Commission had proposed to add a new definition for ‘protein meal’ and to delete the definition for ‘meat-and-bone meal’ in the Glossary, following the review of Chapter 11.4., and to move the definitions for ‘distress’ and ‘pain’ from Chapter 7.8. to the Glossary.

Dr Bonbon noted that the proposed amendments had been circulated in recent Commission reports, in accordance with the progress of related texts.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Belgium, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, thanked the Code Commission for reconsidering the structure of the animal welfare definitions in the *Terrestrial Code*. The EU Members in general supported moving definitions used in several chapters to the Glossary. However, it could not support the deletion of the specific definition of ‘suffering’ from Chapter 7.8. unless it were moved to the Glossary, given that it was an adopted term defined in Chapter 7.8.

Norway supported the EU Members’ position to include a definition for ‘suffering’ in the Glossary.

The United States of America, speaking on behalf of the 31 Members of the Americas region, requested that the definition of ‘poultry’ be included in the Commission’s work programme and that an expert group be convened to review the definition to ensure it provided Members with greater flexibility and to clarify issues for non-poultry or birds that had no epidemiological significance.

China (People’s Rep. of) did not support the new definition for ‘protein meal’ as it considered that this was not a commonly used term and ‘meat and bone meal’ was easy to differentiate from greaves. China (People’s Rep. of) requested that the definition for ‘meat and bone meal’ not be deleted.

New Zealand, speaking on behalf of the Quads Alliance, supported the request made by the United States of America, speaking on behalf of the 31 Members of the Americas region, that a revision of the definition of ‘poultry’ should be included in the Commission’s work programme.

In response to the EU Members and Norway, Dr Bonbon reminded the Assembly that the rationale for this proposal had been provided in the Commission’s February report. He reiterated that the reason not to include a definition for ‘suffering’ in the Glossary was because the experts consulted could not reach a consensus on a suitable Glossary definition for ‘suffering’.

Regarding the definition of ‘protein meal’, Dr Bonbon explained that the experts consulted had agreed that this definition was precise and scientifically based. Dr Bonbon noted that the World Renderers Organization was supportive of this proposal. Dr Bonbon acknowledged that there were still some questions about how to differentiate greaves from meat and bone meal. Dr Bonbon indicated that the Commission would work on the definition for greaves at its September 2023 meeting.

Dr Bonbon noted the request of some Members to review the definition for poultry and informed the Assembly that this request would be included on the agenda for the Commission's September 2023 meeting.

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

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

129. Definitions in Chapter 7.8. Use of animals in research and education

Dr Bonbon explained that the Commission had proposed to amend Article 7.8.1. of Chapter 7.8. Use of animals in research and education to delete the definitions for 'distress' and 'pain' and add these to the Glossary as these terms are used in more than one chapter. Dr Bonbon explained that the definition for 'suffering' was proposed for deletion as the Commission considered there was no need for a specific definition for this term in the *Terrestrial Code*.

Dr Bonbon noted that the proposed amendments had been circulated in recent Commission reports, in accordance with the progress of related texts.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Germany, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, did not support the proposal to delete the definition of 'suffering' from Chapter 7.8. and requested that the definition be maintained, noting that it was important to define this term and to assess the impact on an animal of noxious stimuli and the absence of positive stimuli. The EU Members wished to point out that the term 'suffering' was widely used in many of the chapters in Section 7 and that the specific definition used in Chapter 7.8. was previously adopted text. The EU Members considered that the definition for 'suffering' was fit for purpose for use throughout the *Terrestrial Code* and should therefore also be moved to the Glossary. Indeed, the definition of 'suffering' was of equal importance and relevance in the context of animal welfare as the definitions for 'distress' and 'pain' and could not be replaced by the use of a generic dictionary definition. Indeed, the definition of 'suffering' in Chapter 7.8. contained several animal-welfare-specific elements and concepts not found in dictionary definitions that would otherwise be lost.

Norway supported the position of the EU Members not to delete the definition of 'suffering' from Chapter 7.8., noting that avoiding suffering in animals was a key principle in all animal welfare work and that there were many provisions in the *Terrestrial Code* that referred to suffering in animals and it was therefore essential that these provisions addressing suffering in animals be clearly understood.

Colombia did not support the deletion of the definition of 'suffering' as it was a term widely used in the *Terrestrial Code* and was considered in all aspects of animal welfare.

In response to these comments, Dr Bonbon proposed to reinstate the definition of 'suffering' and to continue to work with the experts to find an appropriate definition for 'suffering' for inclusion in the Glossary.

Germany, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, supported the proposal to continue to work on a definition of 'suffering' suitable for the Glossary and to adopt the deletion of the terms 'distress' and 'pain' to be moved to the Glossary from Chapter 7.8.

Botswana supported the proposal by Germany on behalf of the EU Members and requested clarification on why some definitions were being deleted from a chapter to be included in the Glossary.

Dr Bonbon explained to the Delegate of Botswana that the definitions were moved to the Glossary when they were used in more than one chapter of the *Terrestrial Code* and for this reason they were also deleted from the chapter where they originated.

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

130. Chapter 12.2. Contagious equine metritis

Dr Bonbon explained that the Commission had proposed a comprehensive revision of Chapter 12.2. He explained the main amendments and noted that the revised text had been circulated four times for comments.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

The United States of America thanked the Commission and requested that point 1 a) of Article 12.2.5. on recommendations for the temporary importation of stallions and mares be revised to allow for other forms of identification based on the judgement of the relevant Competent Authority of each country.

Ireland, speaking on behalf of the 27 Members of the EU, thanked the Commission and supported the proposed chapter. Ireland suggested that this chapter, except for the parts relating to the temporary importation of horses, should apply to all equids, instead of only horses, for consistency with other chapters currently being revised.

In response to the United States of America, Dr Bonbon stressed that Article 12.2.5. referred to Chapter 5.12. and Chapter 4.17. of the *Terrestrial Code*, which had already been adopted and thus were the reference for this article and therefore should not be changed.

In response to Ireland, Dr Bonbon noted that the scope of the chapter in terms of species was based on the recommendations of the experts, who had indicated that horses were the only epidemiologically significant host for this disease. Dr Bonbon invited Members to submit relevant evidence for the Commission's consideration.

New Zealand requested clarification on Article 12.2.3. as it considered the chapter was restrictive for Members wanting to demonstrate freedom from the disease at the national level.

Dr Bonbon explained that the chapter did not include any provisions to define freedom at country level because, according to the advice of experts, there was not sufficient evidence to propose one specific international standard in this regard. He added that although there was no recommendation, Members could still demonstrate and recognise country or zone freedom on a bilateral basis.

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

131. Chapter 12.6. Infection with equine influenza virus

Dr Bonbon explained that the Commission had proposed a comprehensive revision of Chapter 12.6. Infection with equine influenza virus. He explained the main amendments and noted that the revised text had been circulated six times for comments.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

132. **Chapter 12.7. Equine piroplasmosis**

Dr Bonbon explained that the Commission had proposed a comprehensive revision of Chapter 12.7. Equine piroplasmosis. He explained the main amendments and noted that the revised text had been circulated four times for comments.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

China (People's Rep. of) considered that the included provisions for disease freedom did not adequately consider all necessary aspects, notably with regard to the consideration of the presence of ticks, and thus could be restrictive for Members having different approaches in place. China (People's Rep. of) also proposed that, through the implementation of comprehensive measures, the period for achieving freedom could be reduced. China (People's Rep. of) hopes to give transition time to the established disease-free areas in order to adjust measures and adapt to the new standards.

New Zealand, on behalf of the Quads Alliance, sought clarification on the reasons for the chapter explicitly excluding the possibility for countries to declare historical freedom.

Uzbekistan thanked the Commission and expressed support for the proposed chapter, highlighting the significant improvement that the proposed new approach included in these chapters on the recommendations for the temporary importation of horses would represent.

In response to China (People's Rep. of), Dr Bonbon emphasised that the Code Commission based its decisions on science and practical considerations and reminded Members that the chapter had been developed based on the advice of experts. Dr Bonbon encouraged Members to submit data on these concerns, which could then be considered by the Commission with regard to a future revision.

Dr Bonbon also highlighted that ticks had always been a central issue to demonstrate freedom from equine piroplasmosis and needed to be included. He also noted that the surveillance provisions in Article 12.7.9. did not prescribe a specific scheme for surveillance; it merely stated that 'active surveillance' was needed to define the status, but not necessarily to maintain it once it had been demonstrated.

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

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

133. **Chapter 14.X. Infection with *Theileria lestoquardi*, *T. luwenshuni* and *T. uilenbergi***

Dr Bonbon explained that, following the proposed addition of 'infection with *Theileria lestoquardi*, *T. luwenshuni* and *T. uilenbergi*' to the WOAHP List (Chapter 1.3.) and the development of a corresponding new chapter in the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual)*, the Commission had developed a new Chapter 14.X. Infection with *Theileria lestoquardi*, *T. luwenshuni* and *T. uilenbergi*.

Dr Bonbon noted that the new Chapter 14.X. had been circulated four times for comments.

Dr Bonbon presented the new chapter to the Assembly.

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

The new chapter was adopted unanimously.

134. **Chapter 16.1. Infection with Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus**

Dr Bonbon explained that, following the addition of ‘infection with Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus’ to the WOAHP List (Chapter 1.3.) and the development of a corresponding new chapter in the *Terrestrial Manual*, the Commission had developed a new Chapter 16.1. Infection with Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus. He explained that the new chapter consisted of a single article for general provisions, aimed at providing Members with precise definitions to fulfil their notification obligations.

Dr Bonbon noted that the new Chapter 16.1. had been circulated three times for comments.

Dr Bonbon presented the new chapter to the Assembly.

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

The new chapter was adopted unanimously.

135. **Chapter 8.Y. Infection with *Leishmania* spp. (Leishmaniosis)**

Dr Bonbon explained that the Commission had proposed to develop a new Chapter 8.Y. Infection with *Leishmania* spp. (Leishmaniosis) as leishmaniosis is in the WOAHP List (Chapter 1.3). and noted that an amendment to the disease name had been proposed in Chapter 1.3. to align with the chapter title. He explained that the new chapter consisted of a single article for general provisions, aimed at providing Members with precise definitions to fulfil their notification obligations.

Dr Bonbon noted that the new Chapter 8.Y. had been circulated three times for comments.

Dr Bonbon presented the new chapter to the Assembly.

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

The new chapter was adopted unanimously.

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

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that the Commission had proposed to amend Articles 1.3.1., 1.3.2., 1.3.3., 1.3.7. and 1.3.9. of Chapter 1.3. He explained that the amendments were the consequences of proposals related to other texts, and comprised: the addition of ‘Infection with *Theileria lestoquardi*, *Theileria luwenshuni* and *Theileria uilenbergi*’ in Article 1.3.3. (sheep and goat diseases); the placement of ‘Infection with *Leishmania* spp. (Leishmaniosis)’ under Article 1.3.1. (multiple species diseases); and the renaming of some of the species categories.

Dr Bonbon noted that the proposed amendments had been circulated in recent Commission reports, in accordance with the progress of related texts.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

137. Terminology: animal categories (Section titles)

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that the Commission had proposed to amend the titles of Section 9 (from APIDAE to APINAE) and Section 11 (from BOVIDAE to BOVINAE), and to add a new Section 16. Camelidae. He explained that these amendments were derived from revisions undertaken to harmonise terminology throughout the *Terrestrial Code* to consistently address the use of the terms ‘bovid’, ‘bovidae’, ‘bovine’ and ‘cattle’ and to improve consistency between the species categories in Chapter 1.3. and the section names in Volume II of the *Terrestrial Code*. He also explained that the addition of the new Section 16 was due to the development of the first chapter for a disease of camelids (Chapter 16.1.).

Dr Bonbon noted that the proposed amendments had been circulated in recent Commission reports, in accordance with the progress of related texts.

Dr Bonbon presented the amendments to the Assembly.

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

138. Terminology: Use of the terms ‘fetal’, ‘foetal’, ‘fetus’ and ‘foetus’

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that, with the aim of harmonising terminology, the Commission had proposed to replace ‘foetal/foetus’ with ‘fetal/fetus’ throughout the *Terrestrial Code*, except for a pathogen name, i.e. *Trichostrongylus axei*. This resulted in an amendment to Article 4.10.3. of Chapter 4.10., in the English version only.

Dr Bonbon noted that the revised text had been circulated twice for comments.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

139. Terminology: Use of the terms ‘enzootic’, ‘endemic’, ‘epizootic’ and ‘epidemic’

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that, with the aim of harmonising terminology, the Commission proposed to replace the terms ‘enzootic/epizootic’ with the terms ‘endemic/epidemic’ throughout the *Terrestrial Code*, except where part of a disease name. This resulted in amendments to Article 4.19.1. of Chapter 4.19. and Article 9.3.1. of Chapter 9.3.

Dr Bonbon noted that the revised text had been circulated twice for comments.

Dr Bonbon presented the revised text to the Assembly.

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

140. User’s guide

Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that amendments had been proposed to the User’s Guide to address specific points derived from several horizontal revisions undertaken to harmonise terminology throughout the *Terrestrial Code* to ensure consistent use of the defined terms ‘Competent Authority’, ‘Veterinary Authority’ and ‘Veterinary Services’, and to improve consistency between the species categories in Chapter 1.3. and the section names in Volume II of the *Terrestrial Code*, and to address the addition of a new Section 16. Camelidae.

Dr Bonbon noted that the proposed amendments had been circulated in recent Commission reports, in accordance with the progress of related texts. He also informed the Assembly that a deeper review would be carried out in the coming year and a more extensive update would be proposed at the next General Session.

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

141. **Work programme**

Dr Bonbon provided a brief update to the Assembly on the work programme of the Code Commission, including the new and revised texts circulated for comment. Dr Bonbon informed the Assembly that, at each of its meetings, the Commission reviewed and updated its work plan, after considering Member comments, Headquarters' comments, and completed work. He reminded Delegates that the Commission had improved the presentation of its work programme, with the aim of providing Members with a clearer overview of current and upcoming activities, including the order of priority and the Commission's considerations, and he encouraged Members to provide feedback on the work programme.

Dr Bonbon reminded Delegates that several new or revised texts had been circulated to Members for comment as Annexes 23 to 34 of the report of the Code Commission's February 2023 meeting. These comprised: revised Glossary (new definitions for 'animal product' and 'germinal products', and revised definition for 'commodity'); revised Chapter 4.6. General hygiene in semen collection and processing centres; revised Chapter 7.5. Slaughter of animals; revised Glossary (definitions related to Chapter 7.5.); revised Chapter 8.X. Infection with *Coxiella burnetii* (Q Fever); revised Chapter 8.Z. Infection with *Trypanosoma evansi*; revised Chapter 11.5. Infection with *Mycoplasma mycoides* subsp. *Mycoides* SC (Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia); revised Chapter 11.X. Infection with bovine pestiviruses (Bovine viral diarrhoea); revised Chapter 12.1. Infection with African horse sickness virus; revised Chapter 13.2. Rabbit haemorrhagic disease; revised Chapter 16.Z. Infection with Camelpox virus; and use of Glossary terms: 'Competent Authority', 'Veterinary Authority' and 'Veterinary Services'.

Dr Bonbon encouraged Delegates to participate in the WOAHP standard-setting process by submitting written comments on Annexes 23 to 34 and the work programme, as well as on Annex 8, which would be considered again by the Commission, to WOAHP Headquarters before 5 July 2023.

142. The Assembly noted the report of the Code Commission.

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

([Doc. 90 SG/10/CS3](#))

143. Dr Cristóbal Zepeda, President of the Scientific Commission, thanked the other members of the Scientific Commission and members of the *ad hoc* Groups and expert panels for their valuable contributions to the work of the Scientific Commission since the General Session in May 2022. He expressed his deep appreciation for the excellent support and professional expertise provided by the staff of the Status and Science Departments at WOAHP Headquarters.

144. Dr Zepeda summarised the activities of the Scientific Commission, including the outcomes of the regular Scientific Commission meetings held in person from 19 to 23 September 2022 and from 13 to 17 February 2023, with additional meetings held via videoconference on 22 and 23 February 2023. He noted that the reports of the two regular meetings were available on the [WOAHP website](#).

145. Following the adoption of *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 1.8. Application for official recognition by WOAHP of risk status for bovine spongiform encephalopathy and Chapter 11.4. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy, Dr Zepeda requested the approval of the Assembly regarding the proposed procedures for the official recognition and the annual reconfirmation of BSE risk status, as well as the maintenance of the BSE risk status should an indigenous case of classical BSE occur in a Member or zone recognised as posing a negligible or controlled risk for BSE. He mentioned that the resolution describing these procedures would be presented for adoption by the Assembly during the Fourth Plenary Session.
146. Dr Zepeda also indicated that the draft resolutions relating to animal health status recognition had been presented for adoption by the Assembly using the adapted procedure before the General Session, and that the results obtained through the electronic voting process would be presented by the President of the Assembly during the Third Plenary Session.
147. After a presentation on the report by the President of the Scientific Commission, the President of the Assembly opened the floor to discussion.
148. Belgium, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, congratulated the Scientific Commission for its constant and crucial work. Belgium expressed concerns that since the first notification to WAHIS of SARS-CoV-2 in animals in 2020 as emerging disease, there has not been an assessment on whether the infection meets the WOAHP listing criteria as per *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 1.2. Considering the scientific data that has become available in the last three years, including scientific risk assessments of European Centre for Disease Control (CDC) and the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) that were shared by the EU Members with WOAHP, the EU Members requested the assessment of SARS-CoV-2 against the criteria to determine whether or not the pathogenic agent should be included in Chapter 1.3. of the *Terrestrial Code*. Dr Zepeda, confirmed that the Scientific Commission would consider this request at its upcoming meeting in September 2023 as described in the Standard Operating Procedure for determining whether a disease should be considered an emerging disease
149. Azerbaijan congratulated the Scientific Commission for the comprehensive work undertaken and suggested that communication between Members and the Scientific Commission should be established on risk assessments with regard to different terrestrial animal diseases, taking into account the diverse regional epidemiological contexts. Dr Zepeda agreed that risk assessments should consider regional and disease specificities and suggested that WOAHP Regional Representations could support in improving the communication and coordination among Members in conducting risk assessments at regional or bilateral level.
150. Dr Zepeda thanked the Members for their comments.
151. The Assembly noted the report of the Scientific Commission.

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

([Doc. 90 SG/10/CS4](#))

152. Dr Ingo Ernst, President of the Aquatic Animals Commission, reported on the work of the Commission since the previous General Session.
153. Dr Ernst provided an overview of global aquatic animal production and statistics on traded aquatic animals to provide context for the importance of the standards being proposed for adoption. He highlighted the continued growth of aquatic animal production, its increasing importance for human nutrition, food security and economies and the potential impacts of emerging diseases. He noted that the standards of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code (Aquatic Code)* and the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals (Aquatic Manual)* provide critical support to Members to control the transboundary spread of diseases.

154. Dr Ernst stated that the Commission had met twice since the 2022 General Session. The first meeting was held in a hybrid format from 14 to 21 September 2022 and the second meeting was held in a hybrid format from 15 to 22 February 2023. He expressed his gratitude to the members of the Aquatic Animals Commission, Dr Alicia Gallardo Lagno (Vice-President), Dr Fiona Geoghegan (Vice-President), Dr Kevin William Christison (Member), Dr Hong Liu (Member) and Dr Espen Rimstad (Member), for their expert contributions and commitment to the work of the Commission, including their participation in *ad hoc* Group meetings and representing the Commission at regional or international meetings.
155. Dr Ernst commended the Reference Centre experts, members of *ad hoc* Groups and experts from Members for their contribution to the work of the Commission. Dr Ernst informed Delegates that the Bureaus of the Aquatic Animals Commission and the Code Commission had met in September 2022 to facilitate harmonisation of relevant chapters under review, and that the Bureaus of the Aquatic Animals Commission and the Biological Standards Commission had met in February 2023 to facilitate harmonisation between the two Commissions on relevant topics such as Reference Centres. He also commended the Secretariat staff at WOAHA Headquarters for the tremendous support they provided to the work of the Commission and *ad hoc* Groups.
156. Dr Ernst highlighted that a new approach had been taken for the working document distributed for this General Session (Doc. 90 SG/10/CS4), which provided key background information for each of the new and revised texts of the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* to be presented for adoption. Dr Ernst reminded the Assembly that the details of the Aquatic Animals Commission's activities since the last General Session had been published in the Commission's September 2022 and February 2023 meeting reports, which were available on the Delegates' website as well as the WOAHA website.
157. Dr Ernst thanked those Members that had submitted comments on texts to be proposed for adoption. He noted the importance of the contributions of experts from Members in improving the quality of the standards and encouraged all Members to contribute to this work.
158. Dr Ernst emphasised that, where relevant, all comments on a specific disease were considered in the corresponding *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* chapters to ensure alignment.
159. Concluding his introductory remarks, Dr Ernst reminded Delegates that the work programme of the Aquatic Animals Commission and the new and revised texts circulated for comment were available in the Commission's February 2023 meeting report and that they were invited to submit comments to WOAHA Headquarters before 3 July 2023.
160. Dr Ernst informed Delegates that the new and revised chapters to be proposed for adoption in the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* were presented in Annexes 4 to 12 and 22 to 33, respectively, of Doc. 90 SG/10/CS4.

AQUATIC CODE

161. Texts proposed for adoption

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

162. Article 9.3.1. of Chapter 9.3. Infection with *Hepatobacter penaei* (Necrotising hepatopancreatitis), Articles 9.4.1. and 9.4.2. of Chapter 9.4. Infection with infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus, and Article 9.5.2. of Chapter 9.5. Infection with infectious myonecrosis virus

Dr Ernst explained that the Commission had proposed an editorial amendment to Article 9.3.1. of Chapter 9.3. Infection with *Hepatobacter penaei* (Necrotising hepatopancreatitis), to ensure consistency with the listed disease name in Article 1.3.1. of Chapter 1.3. Diseases listed by WOAHP.

Dr Ernst noted that the revised Article 9.3.1. of Chapter 9.3. had been circulated three times for comments.

Dr Ernst explained that the Commission had proposed amendments to Articles 9.4.1. and 9.4.2. of Chapter 9.4. Infection with infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus (IHHNV), to reflect the latest taxonomic classification of IHHNV and to list the susceptible species alphabetically by common name as previously agreed by the Commission.

Dr Ernst noted that the revised Articles 9.4.1. and 9.4.2. of Chapter 9.4. had been circulated three times for comments.

Dr Ernst explained that the Commission had proposed an editorial amendment to Article 9.5.2. of Chapter 9.5. Infection with infectious myonecrosis virus, to list the susceptible species alphabetically by common name as previously agreed by the Commission.

Dr Ernst noted that the revised Article 9.5.2. of Chapter 9.5. had been circulated twice for comments.

Dr Ernst presented the revised texts to the Assembly.

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

The revised texts were adopted unanimously.

163. Article 10.9.2. of Chapter 10.9. Infection with spring viraemia of carp virus

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that Article 10.9.2. of Chapter 10.9. Infection with spring viraemia of carp virus had been amended to include Jinsha barbel carp (*Percocypris pingi*) as a species susceptible to infection with spring viraemia of carp virus. Dr Ernst explained that the inclusion of Jinsha barbel carp was supported by the assessment performed by the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of fish species to WOAHP listed diseases which provided evidence that Jinsha barbel carp met the criteria to be listed as a susceptible species.

Dr Ernst noted that the revised Article 10.9.2. of Chapter 10.9. had been circulated twice for comments.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

164. Chapter 10.X. Infection with tilapia lake virus

Dr Ernst explained that following the adoption, in May 2022, of infection with tilapia lake virus (TiLV) in Chapter 1.3. Diseases listed by WOAHP, the Commission had developed a draft new Chapter 10.X. Infection with TiLV, based on the article structure of other disease-specific chapters in Section 10 of the *Aquatic Code*.

Dr Ernst noted that the new Chapter 10.X. had been circulated twice for comments.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Thailand did not support adoption of the chapter, as proposed, as it did not agree with the time/temperatures for inactivation in points 1 and 2 of Article 10.X.3. Thailand explained that the proposed time/temperature for inactivation of 60 degrees Celsius for 120 minutes was obtained from evidence produced during vaccine development and therefore was not appropriate for aquatic animal products. Thailand requested that the time/temperatures for inactivation revert to 56 degrees Celsius for 5 minutes and points 1 and 2 be maintained under study. Thailand explained that it would support the adoption of the new chapter if the article was amended as proposed.

Finland, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, did not support the adoption of the chapter, as proposed, as it did not agree with the final paragraph of Articles 10.X.5. and 10.X.6. Finland explained that the final paragraph of these articles was inconsistent with point 1 of Article 1.4.14. The EU Members proposed that the words “provided points 4 a) to c) have been achieved” be deleted from these paragraphs. Finland noted that it did not agree with the requirement that infected populations within an infected zone be killed and disposed of before the part of the country outside the infected and protection zones could be declared a disease-free zone.

Norway supported the comment made by Finland on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, and did not support the adoption of the chapter as proposed.

Dr Ernst thanked Thailand for its comment and noted that there was an issue of process with the safe commodities for this chapter. He explained that the Commission had reviewed the scientific literature for the time/temperatures for inactivation for all safe commodities for WOAHL-listed diseases at its February 2023 meeting, and that the updated assessments for safe commodities had been published on the WOAHL website. Dr Ernst explained that the change in the time/temperature for inactivation of TiLV was proposed for adoption in advance of the other articles on safe commodities and that Members had not had adequate time to comment on these proposed amendments. Dr Ernst proposed that points 1 and 2 of Article 10.X.3. be placed under study and the Commission would consider Member comments on this article at its September 2023 meeting. He explained that Article 10.X.3. of the TiLV chapter would be circulated for comment in the September 2023 meeting report and would align with the process for safe commodities for other listed diseases.

Dr Ernst thanked Finland, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, and Norway for their comments regarding Articles 10.X.5. and 10.X.6. Dr Ernst noted that the issue identified in both articles was in regard to a change made at its February 2023 meeting to align the text in Articles 10.X.5. and 10.X.6. with Chapter 1.4. and that alignment was also required for all disease-specific chapters. Dr Ernst proposed that the paragraph be placed ‘under study’ so that it was not part of the adopted text and would be further considered at the Commission’s September 2023 meeting.

Finland on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, thanked Dr Ernst for consideration of its concerns and indicated it would support adoption of the proposed chapter with these amendments.

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

The revised text was adopted, with one abstention (Thailand).

165. Article 11.2.2. of Chapter 11.2. Infection with *Bonamia exitiosa*, and Article 11.3.2. of Chapter 11.3. Infection with *Bonamia ostreae*

Dr Ernst explained that the Commission had proposed an amendment to Article 11.2.2. of Chapter 11.2. Infection with *Bonamia exitiosa*, to reflect the latest taxonomic changes for some *Crassostrea* species.

Dr Ernst noted that the revised Article 11.2.2. of Chapter 11.2. had been circulated twice for comments.

Dr Ernst explained that the Commission had proposed an amendment to Article 11.3.2. of Chapter 11.3. Infection with *Bonamia ostreae*, to reflect the latest taxonomic changes for some *Crassostrea* species.

Dr Ernst noted that the revised Article 11.3.2. of Chapter 11.3. had been circulated twice for comments.

Dr Ernst presented the revised texts to the Assembly.

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

The revised texts were adopted unanimously.

166. Articles 11.4.1. and 11.4.2. of Chapter 11.4. Infection with *Marteilia refringens*

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that Article 11.4.1. had been amended to update the taxonomic classification of the pathogenic agent, and that the list of susceptible species in Article 11.4.2. had been amended, in line with recommendations proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of mollusc species to WOA listed diseases.

Dr Ernst noted that the revised Articles 11.4.1. and 11.4.2. of Chapter 11.4. had been circulated twice for comments.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Norway supported adoption of the proposed texts but wished to inform the Commission of ongoing scientific research on this pathogenic agent which suggested a potential separation into two species, *M. refringens* in oysters and *M. pararefringens* in mussels. Norway noted that this new evidence may impact the naming of the listed disease in the future. Norway stated that it would inform the Commission when additional published results became available.

Dr Ernst thanked Norway and indicated that the Commission was aware of work that had proposed splitting the species into two, and of previous uncertainty regarding the issue. Dr Ernst commented that the Commission looked forward to receiving any new research when it became available.

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

167. Model Articles 11.X.9. to 11.X.14. for mollusc disease-specific chapters

Dr Ernst reported that the model Articles 11.X.9. to 11.X.14. for mollusc disease-specific chapters had been amended to ensure harmonisation with relevant articles in other disease-specific chapters in the *Aquatic Code*. He explained that, once adopted, the model articles would be applied to the relevant articles of the mollusc disease-specific chapters in the 2023 edition of the *Aquatic Code*.

Dr Ernst noted that the revised model Articles 11.X.9. to 11.X.14. had been circulated twice for comments.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

AQUATIC MANUAL

168. Texts proposed for adoption

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

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

169. Chapter 2.2.1. Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease

Dr Ernst reported that Chapter 2.2.1. Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease had been comprehensively revised to update scientific information and reformatted to align with the new disease chapter template. He stated that the Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOAHP Reference Laboratory experts for infection with acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease.

Dr Ernst noted that the revised Chapter 2.2.1. had been circulated three times for comments.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

170. Chapter 2.2.3. Infection with *Hepatobacter penaei* (necrotising hepatopancreatitis)

Dr Ernst reported that Chapter 2.2.3. Infection with *Hepatobacter penaei* (necrotising hepatopancreatitis) had been comprehensively revised to update scientific information and reformatted to align with the new disease chapter template. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOAHP Reference Laboratory expert for infection with *Hepatobacter penaei* (necrotising hepatopancreatitis).

Dr Ernst noted that the revised Chapter 2.2.3. had been circulated three times for comments.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Finland, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, confirmed that the EU Members supported adoption of this revised chapter. However, it noted that no data were provided in Table 6.3.1. *For presumptive diagnosis of clinically affected animals* and Table 6.3.2. *For surveillance of apparently healthy animals*. In situations where no data were available, the EU Members would recommend that the second sentence of the paragraph preceding the aforementioned tables be deleted: “This information can be used for the design of surveys for infection with [pathogenic agent], however, it should be noted that diagnostic performance is specific to the circumstances of each diagnostic accuracy study (including the test purpose, source population, tissue sample types and host species) and diagnostic performance may vary under different conditions.” This comment also applied to Annexes 24, 26 and 28.

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the tables and introductory text were included to specify diagnostic performance characteristics, where they existed, as they were critical for survey design. He stated that the Section was one of the important improvements to the *Aquatic Manual* and was included in the revised template, which had been adopted previously by the Assembly. He also indicated that for some aquatic animal diseases there may be limited information on the diagnostic performance of assays for certain purposes of use. The Commission had therefore decided to keep the tables, even if no information was available, to make clear that information on diagnostic performance was absent. Dr Ernst noted that by keeping the tables, some of the introductory text became superfluous. Dr Ernst proposed that the Commission would consider the comment in September and propose a solution that would, for consistency, apply to all chapters and not just the chapters currently being presented for adoption.

Finland, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, accepted the proposal.

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

171. Chapter 2.2.4. Infection with infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus

Dr Ernst reported that Chapter 2.2.4. Infection with infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus had been comprehensively revised to update scientific information and reformatted to align with the new disease chapter template. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOAHP Reference Laboratory experts for infection with infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus.

Dr Ernst noted that the revised Chapter 2.2.4. had been circulated three times for comments.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

172. Chapter 2.2.5. Infection with infectious myonecrosis virus

Dr Ernst reported that Chapter 2.2.5. Infection with infectious myonecrosis virus had been comprehensively revised to update scientific information and reformatted to align with the new disease chapter template.

Dr Ernst noted that the revised Chapter 2.2.5. had been circulated twice for comments.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

173. Chapter 2.2.7. Infection with Taura syndrome virus

Dr Ernst reported that Chapter 2.2.7. Infection with Taura syndrome virus had been comprehensively revised to update scientific information and reformatted to align with the new disease chapter template. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOA Reference Laboratory expert for infection with Taura syndrome virus.

Dr Ernst noted that the revised Chapter 2.2.7. had been circulated twice for comments.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

174. Chapter 2.2.8. Infection with white spot syndrome virus

Dr Ernst reported that Chapter 2.2.8. Infection with white spot syndrome virus had been comprehensively revised to update scientific information and reformatted to align with the new disease chapter template. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOA Reference Laboratory experts for infection with white spot syndrome virus.

Dr Ernst noted that the revised Chapter 2.2.8. had been circulated twice for comments.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

175. Chapter 2.3.1. Infection with *Aphanomyces invadans* (epizootic ulcerative syndrome)

Dr Ernst reported that Chapter 2.3.1. Infection with *Aphanomyces invadans* (epizootic ulcerative syndrome) had been comprehensively revised to update scientific information and reformatted to align with the new disease chapter template.

Dr Ernst noted that the revised Chapter 2.3.1. had been circulated twice for comments.

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Commission had been made aware of some technical errors in the cycling parameters of the conventional polymerase chain reaction (PCR) given in Table 4.4.2. He explained that, in method 1 there were two incorrect repetitions of “95°C/30 sec”, the correct cycling parameters being “95°C/30 sec, 56°C/45 sec, 72°C/2.5 min”, and that in method 2, the second cycling condition should be “65°C/30 sec” and not 65°C/45 sec”. He stated that these were editorial corrections that needed to be made to bring the text into line with the published papers.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text, with the aforementioned editorial corrections, to the Assembly.

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

176. Chapter 2.3.2. Infection with epizootic haematopoietic necrosis virus

Dr Ernst reported that Chapter 2.3.2. Infection with epizootic haematopoietic necrosis virus had been comprehensively revised to update scientific information and reformatted to align with the new disease chapter template. The Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOAHP Reference Laboratory expert for infection with epizootic haematopoietic necrosis virus.

Dr Ernst noted that the revised Chapter 2.3.2. had been circulated twice for comments.

Again, Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Commission had been made aware of a technical error in the cycling parameters of the conventional PCR given in Table 4.4.2. He indicated that “94°C/30 sec” should be added before “50°C/30 sec” and “72°C/1 min” should be added after “50°C/30 sec”. He explained that these were editorial corrections that needed to be made to bring the text into line with the published papers.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text, with the aforementioned editorial corrections, to the Assembly.

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

177. Section 2.2.1. of Chapter 2.3.9. Infection with spring viraemia of carp virus

Dr Ernst reported that the amendments in Section 2.2.1. of Chapter 2.3.9. Infection with spring viraemia of carp virus of the *Aquatic Manual* reflected proposed amendments to Article 10.9.2. of the *Aquatic Code*.

Dr Ernst noted that the revised Sections 2.2.1. of Chapter 2.3.9. had been circulated twice for comments.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

178. Sections 2.2.1. and 2.2.2. of Chapter 2.4.2. Infection with *Bonamia exitiosa*, and Sections 2.2.1. and 2.2.2. of Chapter 2.4.3. Infection with *Bonamia ostreae*

Dr Ernst reported that amendments to the taxonomy of some susceptible species had been proposed in Sections 2.2.1. and 2.2.2. of Chapter 2.4.2. Infection with *Bonamia exitiosa* and Chapter 2.4.3. Infection with *Bonamia ostreae*, respectively.

Dr Ernst noted that the revised Sections 2.2.1. and 2.2.2. of Chapter 2.4.2. and Chapter 2.4.3. had been circulated twice for comments.

Dr Ernst presented the revised texts to the Assembly.

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

The revised texts were adopted unanimously.

179. Sections 2.2.1. and 2.2.2. of Chapter 2.4.4. Infection with *Marteilia refringens*

Dr Ernst reported that amendments to the list of susceptible species in Sections 2.2.1. and 2.2.2. of Chapter 2.4.4. had been proposed.

Dr Ernst noted that the revised Sections 2.2.1. and 2.2.2. of Chapter 2.4.4. had been circulated twice for comments.

Dr Ernst presented the revised text to the Assembly.

Norway supported adoption of the amendments to this chapter, but asked the Commission to clarify the convention of listing species susceptible to diseases in Section 2.2.1. of the *Aquatic Manual*. Section 2.2.1. should directly mirror the list of susceptible species in all Articles X.X.2. of the disease-specific chapters of the *Aquatic Code*. The Commission had proposed to list a copepod species (*Paracartia grani*) in Section 2.2.1. of Chapter 2.4.4. of the *Aquatic Manual* but not in Article 11.4.2. of the *Aquatic Code*. Norway noted that as any listing of susceptible species would have trade implications, it was important to have a clear convention.

Dr Ernst explained that the susceptible species listed in the *Aquatic Code* and the *Aquatic Manual* had to meet the listing criteria as determined by assessment by *ad hoc* Groups. In principle, the assessments should result in alignment of the susceptible species in the *Aquatic Code* and the *Aquatic Manual*. Dr Ernst noted that this particular case was an exception because a copepod crustacean was susceptible, and was perhaps an intermediate host. The Commission had decided not to include the copepod in the *Aquatic Code*, because it was not considered relevant for trade and the application of the standards in the disease-specific chapter. It was, however, included in the relevant section in the *Aquatic Manual*. Dr Ernst stated that the Commission believed the approach to be justified in this particular case.

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

180. Reference Centres

Dr Ernst informed the Assembly that the Commission had approved the application from the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University, United States of America, in partnership with the Department of Economics, Business and Sociology, University of São Paulo, Brazil, the Faculty of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine, University of Brasília, Brazil, the Department of Business, Economics and Rural Development, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Husbandry, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico and the School of Economic Sciences, Washington State University, United States of America, for a new WOAHA Collaborating Centre consortium for Economics of Animal Health in the Americas Region.

181. Texts circulated for Member comments

Dr Ernst reminded the Assembly that 14 Annexes had been circulated for comment in the Aquatic Animals Commission's February 2023 report. He reminded the Assembly that all comments had to be received before the deadline of 3 July 2023 to be considered by the Commission at its September 2023 meeting.

For the *Aquatic Code* these comprised: revised use of glossary terms: 'Aquatic Animal Health Services', 'Competent Authority' and 'Veterinary Authority'; revised Article 1.1.5. of Chapter 1.1. Notification of diseases and provision of epidemiological information; revised Article 1.3.1. of Chapter 1.3. Diseases listed by WOAHA; revised Articles X.X.3. for amphibian, crustacean, fish and mollusc disease-specific chapters; and revised Articles 11.5.1. and 11.5.2. of Chapter 11.5. Infection with *Perkinsus marinus*.

For the *Aquatic Manual* these comprised: revised Chapter 2.2.0. General information (diseases of crustaceans); revised Chapter 2.2.2. Infection with *Aphanomyces astaci* (crayfish plague); revised Chapter 2.2.6. Infection with *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* nodavirus (white tail disease); revised Chapter 2.2.9. Infection with yellow head virus genotype 1; and revised Sections 2.2.1. and 2.2.2. of Chapter 2.4.5. Infection with *Perkinsus marinus*.

Dr Ernst noted that details regarding the rationale for these revised texts could be found in the February 2023 report of the Aquatic Animals Commission, available on the Delegates' website as well as the WOAAH website. He encouraged Delegates to participate in the WOAAH standard-setting process through the provision of written comments to WOAAH.

182. **Work plan**

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

Australia commended the Commission for its ongoing work to review and improve the *Aquatic Code* and the *Aquatic Manual*. Australia noted that this work had been a substantial undertaking, with input from many experts across the global community, including Australian specialists. The application of the criteria to assess the susceptible species and safe commodities, were noted as excellent examples of an approach supported by Australia to improve the scientific rigour and consistency in the standards. Australia commented that it was looking forward to the discussion paper on the application of compartmentalisation as this was highly relevant to Australia. Australia explained that it anticipated that, once published, the revised chapter on compartmentalisation would be a resource that will support approaches to demonstrating freedom for purposes of trade as well as supporting disease management decisions during emergency aquatic animal disease responses. Australia also commented that the discussion paper approach for engaging Members on complex issues prior to the revision of standards will provide efficiency through exploring conceptual issues and consensus prior to commencing the drafting of a revised chapter.

Chile thanked the Commission for its ongoing work and the detail that Dr Ernst had provided in the introduction section of his presentation which established the importance of aquaculture in relation to food security. Chile commented that it was looking forward to the Commission's work on the safe trade of ornamental fish and was currently working on a presentation on the topic which would be provided to the Commission for its consideration. Chile also highlighted that it was interested in future discussions on infection with infectious spleen and kidney necrosis virus (ISKNV).

Dr Ernst thanked Australia and Chile for their comments. Dr Ernst thanked Chile for its comments on the upcoming work on trade of ornamental aquatic animals and informed the Assembly that the volume of trade in ornamental aquatic animals was extraordinary, both in terms of the number of species traded and the number of individual live animals. Dr Ernst highlighted that sound guidance was required by Members to manage the risks associated with the trade of these aquatic animals. He stated that the Commission was looking forward to receiving Member comments on its proposal on infection with ISKNV and would be working to find an approach to manage this important group of viruses given their impacts on marine and freshwater fish species, particularly in warm water production systems around the world.

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

Proposal and discussion of the Technical Item resolution

184. The President announced that the quorum had been reached (92 required).

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 28 Strategic Challenges in the Global Control of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza

185. Dr Arroyo submitted Draft Resolution No. 28 for adoption and opened the floor for Members' comments.
186. Draft Resolution No. 28 was adopted by the Assembly with no objections and one abstention (Thailand). The text appears under Resolution No. 28 at the end of this report.
187. Dr Arroyo thanked Dr Swayne, the panellists of the Animal Health Forum, and those involved in the discussion for the excellent work. She noted that the multipronged approach had facilitated a rich discussion and debate among WOAHA Delegates, private industry and subject matter experts around the science-based disease control strategies required for global control of HPAI.

■ THURSDAY 25 MAY 2023 ■

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions (cont.)

Biological Standards Commission

([Doc. 90 SG/10/CS2](#))

188. Prof. Emmanuel Couacy-Hymann, President of the Biological Standards Commission, reported on the work of the Commission since the previous General Session. The Commission had met twice: from 5 to 9 September 2022 and from 6 to 10 February 2023.
189. Prof. Couacy-Hymann thanked the other Members of the Commission. Appreciation was expressed for the contribution of the other regular participant, Dr Steven Edwards, Consultant Editor of the *Terrestrial Manual*, as well as specialist contributions by WOAHA experts from Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, and others. He also commended the staff of the Science Department and the Antimicrobial Resistance and Veterinary Products Department at WOAHA Headquarters for supporting the work of the Commission.
190. **WOAHA MANUAL OF DIAGNOSTIC TESTS AND VACCINES FOR TERRESTRIAL ANIMALS**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann informed Delegates that, in March 2023, the 15 chapters and the glossary of terms from the *Terrestrial Manual* that had been reviewed and approved by the Biological Standards Commission for circulation to Members were made available via a link in the Commission's February 2023 meeting report, which could be found both on the Delegates' website and on the Commission's webpage of the WOAHA public website. He also pointed out that the revised chapters to be proposed for adoption were also presented in Doc. 90 SG/10/CS2.

191. **Texts proposed for adoption**

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

192. **Glossary of terms**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that the Glossary of terms had been updated to include two new definitions: for “robustness” and for “anthroponosis”.

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

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

193. **Chapter 1.1.6. Principles and methods of validation of diagnostic assays for infectious diseases**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 1.1.6. Principles and methods of validation of diagnostic assays for infectious diseases had been comprehensively revised. He stated that the Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAHCollaborating Centre for Diagnostic Test Validation Science in the Asia-Pacific Region.

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

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

194. **Chapter 1.1.10. Vaccine banks**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 1.1.10. Vaccine banks had been comprehensively revised.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann explained that in the commenting period before the General Session, the African Union (AU) had proposed to delete the text “unless shelf-life can be extended by appropriate testing and subject to approval by the relevant regulatory authority” from lines 33–34 of the Summary as the practice has not been standardised and is subject to misuse.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann, in consultation with the experts, agreed to this deletion.

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

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

195. **Chapter 3.1.1. Anthrax**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.1.1. Anthrax had undergone a moderate revision. He stated that the Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOAHCollaborating Laboratory experts for anthrax.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann explained that in the commenting period before the General Session, the United Kingdom had proposed to clarify what is meant by “natural orifices should be closed” in line 44 of the Introduction by adding “(for example plugged with cotton wool or other suitable material soaked in an approved disinfectant)”. The United Kingdom also proposed adding the anus as an example of a natural orifice.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann agreed to these additions.

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

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

196. Chapter 3.1.5. Crimean–Congo haemorrhagic fever

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.1.5. Crimean–Congo haemorrhagic fever had undergone a moderate revision. He stated that the Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Detection and Identification in Humans of Emerging Animal Pathogens and Development of Tools for their Diagnoses.

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

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

197. Chapter 3.1.18. Rabies (infection with rabies virus and other lyssaviruses)

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.1.18. Rabies (infection with rabies virus and other lyssaviruses) had undergone a moderate revision. He stated that the Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOAHA Reference Laboratory experts for rabies.

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

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

198. Chapter 3.1.19. Rift Valley fever (infection with Rift Valley fever virus)

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.1.19. Rift Valley fever (infection with Rift Valley fever virus) had undergone a moderate revision. He stated that the Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOAHA Reference Laboratory experts for Rift Valley fever.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann explained that in the commenting period before the General Session, the United Kingdom had proposed to delete the recommendation to vaccinate laboratory workers as no licenced vaccine was currently available.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann proposed to modify lines 20–21 of the Summary by adding “using correct personal protective equipment” at the end of the sentence “RVFV has also caused serious infections in laboratory workers and must be handled with stringent biosafety and biocontainment measures.” and deleting the sentence “It is recommended that laboratory workers be vaccinated if possible.”

He also proposed to modify lines 86–88 of the *Introduction*, by adding “work under strict biosafety and biocontainment environments where they use correct personal protective equipment to protect themselves against possible infection” after “Staff should” and deleting “be vaccinated when a vaccine is available”.

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

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

199. **Chapter 3.1.22. Trichinellosis (infection with *Trichinella* spp.)**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.1.22. Trichinellosis (infection with *Trichinella* spp.) had been comprehensively revised. He stated that the Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOAHA Reference Laboratory experts for trichinellosis.

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

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

200. **Chapter 3.2.2. American foulbrood of honey bees (infection of honey bees with *Paenibacillus* larvae)**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.2.2. American foulbrood of honey bees (infection of honey bees with *Paenibacillus* larvae) had undergone a moderate revision. He stated that the Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOAHA Reference Laboratory experts for American foulbrood (infection of honey bees with *Paenibacillus* larvae).

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

United States of America had submitted comments including some editorial improvements in the Summary, and informing the Assembly that a vaccine for *Paenibacillus* larvae has now been authorised for use in the USA. United States of America requested that the vaccine be included in the chapter.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann responded that the Commission has taken note of the information about the newly authorised vaccine and will discuss it at the September meeting in consultation with the Reference Laboratory experts.

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

201. **Chapter 3.2.3. European foulbrood of honey bees (infection of honey bees with *Melissococcus plutonius*)**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.2.3. European foulbrood of honey bees (infection of honey bees with *Melissococcus plutonius*) had undergone a moderate revision. He stated that the Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOAHA Reference Laboratory expert for European foulbrood (infection of honey bees with *Melissococcus plutonius*).

Prof. Couacy-Hymann explained that in the commenting period before the General Session, the 27 Member States of the EU had proposed that a new sentence be deleted from the Summary and that the original sentence be reinstated. The EU Members felt that the new sentence “Both disease signs and the presence of *M. plutonius* are required for diagnosis” amounts to a case definition, which is outside the scope of the *Terrestrial Manual*; furthermore, the statement seemed to contradict Section A of the chapter and Article 9.3.1. of the *Terrestrial Code* (“Subclinical infections are common and require laboratory diagnosis”).

Prof. Couacy-Hymann, in consultation with the Commission and the expert, agreed to delete the sentence and reinstate the first part of the previous text: “Infected colonies display few visible signs.”

Sweden, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, congratulated the Biological Standards Commission for its essential work. In particular, the EU Members commended the Commission for its continued efforts to update the *Terrestrial Manual*. The EU Members thanked the Commission for having taken into account its comments. The EU Members would welcome joint work with the Code Commission to revise in parallel the case definition for this disease in the *Terrestrial Code* and the relevant text in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

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

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

202. **Chapter 3.3.10. Fowlpox**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.3.10. Fowlpox had undergone a moderate revision. He stated that the Commission had worked in close cooperation with experts from the WOAHC Collaborating Centre for Research on Emerging Avian Diseases.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann explained that in the commenting period before the General Session, the United Kingdom had proposed that, in Table 1 Test methods available for diagnosis of fowlpox and their purpose, the rating of the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and the real-time PCR for the purpose “Prevalence of infection – surveillance” should be the same.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann, in consultation with the WOAHC Collaborating Centre experts, agreed that the rating for both tests should be “–” (i.e. not appropriate for this purpose). He pointed out that in some regions, live fowlpox viruses were being used for vaccination and thus detection was possible but would not indicate disease. He stated that the rating of the PCR would thus be changed from “+” to “–” to align with the real-time PCR.

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

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

203. **Chapter 3.3.13. Marek’s disease**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.1.13. Marek’s disease had been comprehensively revised. He stated that the Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOAHC Reference Laboratory expert for Marek’s disease.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann explained that in the commenting period before the General Session, the United Kingdom had proposed changing the word “ovary” to “gonads” at line 86 of the Introduction as male birds are also affected. In Table 1 Features useful in differentiating Marek’s disease, lymphoid leukosis and reticuloendotheliosis, the United Kingdom also proposed to replace “Neural involvement” with “Peripheral nerves” in the description of microscopic lesions for accuracy, and to amend the description of splenic lesions in Marek’s disease from “Diffuse” to “Focal/multifocal in layers or diffuse in broiler breeders”.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann, in consultation with the relevant Reference Laboratory expert, agreed to these changes.

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

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

204. Chapter 3.4.12. Lumpy skin disease

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.4.12. Lumpy skin disease (LSD) had been minimally revised. The Commission worked in close cooperation with the WOAHP Reference Laboratory expert for LSD.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann explained that in the commenting period before the General Session, the United Kingdom had questioned the addition of the new sentence at lines 82 and 83 of the Introduction: “Some wildlife species are susceptible to LSD”.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann, in consultation with the relevant WOAHP Reference Laboratory experts, agreed to remove the sentence and put the comment and responses forward for consideration in the 2023/2024 cycle when the chapter’s vaccine section would be updated.

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

Botswana asked why the sentence on susceptibility of wildlife species was removed.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann replied that this was a complex issue, with a lack of specific information on susceptibility of wildlife species. He stated that some cases had been found in zoos but these were experimental infections. There were currently recombinant strains in circulation in Asia and there was not enough information to know how this situation would evolve. The Commission had therefore decided that it was preferable to remove the sentence for the time being to ensure that WOAHP standards always adopted an evidence-based approach and to seek the views of a group of experts.

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

205. Chapter 3.7.2. Rabbit haemorrhagic disease

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.7.2. Rabbit haemorrhagic disease had been minimally revised. He stated that the Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOAHP Reference Laboratory expert for rabbit haemorrhagic disease.

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

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

206. Chapter 3.9.7. Influenza A virus of swine

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.9.7. Influenza A virus of swine had been comprehensively revised. He stated that the Commission had worked in close cooperation with the WOAHP Reference Laboratory expert for influenza A virus of swine.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann explained that in the commenting period before the General Session, the AU had proposed replacing the word “discriminate” with the word “differentiate” twice in the sentence at lines 398–400 of Section B.1.6 Reverse-transcription polymerase chain as the term “differentiate” was more accurate and commonly used.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann agreed to this amendment.

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

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

207. Chapter 3.10.1. Bunyaviral diseases of animals (excluding Rift Valley fever and Crimean–Congo haemorrhagic fever)

Prof. Couacy-Hymann reported that Chapter 3.10.1. Bunyaviral diseases of animals (excluding Rift Valley fever and Crimean–Congo haemorrhagic fever) had been minimally revised. He stated that the Commission had worked in close cooperation with relevant WOAHP Reference Laboratory experts.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann explained that in the commenting period before the General Session, the AU had proposed replacing the word “plaques” with the word “lesions” in the sentence at lines 536–537 of Section B2.4.1.1 Infection inhibition in microtitre plates as the term “lesion” was more appropriate.

Prof. Couacy-Hymann agreed to this amendment.

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

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

The revised text was adopted unanimously.

208. Liaison with other Commissions

The Biological Standards Commission provided advice on a number of topics at the request of the Code Commission. The Biological Standards Commission held a joint meeting with the Aquatic Animals Commission to share information and explore areas of common interest and ways of working together.

209. WOAHP Reference Centres

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

Prof. Couacy-Hymann drew Delegates’ attention to the need for WOAHP Reference Laboratories for some important diseases, particularly in certain regions, and invited applications from suitable institutions for the following diseases: glanders in the Americas and Asia-Pacific; Marek’s disease, peste des petits ruminants in Africa and West Nile fever in the Americas. He also pointed out that there were currently no Reference Laboratories for the following diseases: caprine arthritis/encephalitis and maedi-visna; equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern and Western) and Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis; and tularemia.

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

210. **WOAH Register of diagnostic tests**

Prof. Couacy-Hymann indicated that the draft Resolution relating to the WOAHA Register of diagnostic tests had been presented for adoption by the Assembly following the adapted procedure before the General Session, with the results having been obtained through the electronic voting process. The Resolution proposed the adoption of one new terrestrial kit (VDRG® FMDV 3Diff/PAN Ag Rapid Kit), the addition of a new claim for an existing kit (Enferplex Bovine TB antibody test), the extension of a claim for an existing kit (BOVIGAM® *Mycobacterium bovis* Gamma interferon test kit for cattle), and the renewal of two kits for a 5-year period (BIONOTE® Rapid MERS-CoV Ag and *Mycobacterium bovis* Antibody Test Kit).

211. The President opened the floor for comment.

212. Australia had two questions on WOAHA policy. Firstly, Australia asked if the twinning programme was being funded entirely through the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund (World Fund), or if there was some bilateral funding. Secondly, regarding diagnostic kits on the WOAHA Register, Australia asked if they were allowed to be marketed with the WOAHA logo and, if so, whether this implied endorsement of these products by WOAHA.

213. Senegal congratulated Prof. Couacy-Hymann for the excellent work the Commission had accomplished in revising the 15 chapters for the *Terrestrial Manual*.

214. Benin congratulated the Commission for the high quality of its work. Benin noted that the distribution of Reference Laboratories in the African region remained low and this could give rise to critical situations with regard to combatting animal diseases. Benin asked why WOAHA was focusing on Reference Laboratories only for PPR, rabies and ASF.

215. Sweden on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, invited WOAHA to update its disease webpages to bring the terminology used on the WOAHA website in line with the *Terrestrial Manual* chapter on Influenza A viruses of swine. The WOAHA webpage for this non-listed disease erroneously referred to "Swine influenza" – a term not defined in WOAHA standards. Consistency of terminology and disease names would add clarity and avoid possible confusion.

216. Prof. Couacy-Hymann thanked Senegal for the kind comments. In reply to Benin, Prof. Couacy-Hymann agreed that the number of Reference Centres in Africa remained low. He reminded the Delegates that the twinning programme offered an opportunity to increase the number of Reference Laboratories to the benefit of the Africa region. In answer to Benin, Prof. Couacy-Hymann explained that WOAHA had established networks for PPR, rabies and ASF as these diseases were very important. He pointed out that rabies and PPR had elimination and eradication programmes, and that ASF had extended into Asia, Europe and the Americas, and there was therefore a need to work globally. The networks included both Reference Laboratories and national laboratories, which could contribute to the global initiatives for prevention and control worldwide. He added that networks expanded access to expertise and strengthened laboratory capacity.

217. The Director General fully supported Prof. Couacy-Hymann's comments on the twinning programme and capacity building in countries where WOAHA did not currently have Reference Laboratories. In reply to Australia, she informed the Assembly that the majority of twinning projects were being financed by the World Fund, with a minority being self-financed. Regarding the question on the kit register, Dr Eloit confirmed that the kit manufacturers could indeed use the WOAHA logo in packaging. She noted, however, that WOAHA was currently working on a revised policy for the kit registration process. She pointed out that the existing process had been in place for over 15 years, but the number of validated kits remained low. WOAHA was currently in contact with stakeholders in an effort to improve the system. This was still in the development stage, and she should be able to report back on progress next year.
218. Algeria complimented the format of Prof. Couacy-Hymann's presentation. Algeria then drew attention to the WOAHA website, where previous amendments to the *Terrestrial Code* chapters were available in chronological order and could be accessed. She asked if this service could be provided for the *Terrestrial Manual*.
219. Prof. Couacy-Hymann's took note of this request.
220. The Assembly noted the Report of the Biological Standards Commission.

Draft Technical Resolutions adopted during the online voting period

221. The President certified that, since 112 Delegates had voted during the online procedure, the quorum had been reached (92 required).
222. The President divulged the results of the voting on the technical resolutions that had been proposed for adoption before the General Session.

| RESO | TITLE | YES | NO | ABS | RESULTS |
|--------|--|-----|----|-----|---------|
| No. 11 | Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members | 110 | 0 | 2 | ADOPTED |
| No. 12 | Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Foot and Mouth Disease of Members | 109 | 0 | 3 | ADOPTED |
| No. 13 | Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Members | 106 | 0 | 6 | ADOPTED |
| No. 14 | Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia of Members | 106 | 1 | 5 | ADOPTED |
| No. 15 | Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Members | 108 | 1 | 3 | ADOPTED |
| No. 16 | Recognition of the African Horse Sickness Status of Members | 111 | 0 | 1 | ADOPTED |
| No. 17 | Recognition of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Status of Members | 110 | 0 | 2 | ADOPTED |
| No. 18 | Recognition of the Classical Swine Fever Status of Members | 110 | 0 | 2 | ADOPTED |
| No. 19 | Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Dog-mediated Rabies of Members | 109 | 0 | 3 | ADOPTED |
| No. 25 | Designation of WOAHA Reference Laboratories for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases | 110 | 1 | 1 | ADOPTED |
| No. 27 | Extension to the Designation of Facilities Holding Rinderpest Virus Containing Material to Maintain Global Freedom from Rinderpest | 107 | 2 | 3 | ADOPTED |
| No. 30 | Register of terrestrial animal diseases diagnostic kits validated and certified by WOAHA | 110 | 0 | 2 | ADOPTED |
| No. 31 | Register of aquatic animal disease diagnostic kits validated and certified by WOAHA | 107 | 1 | 4 | ADOPTED |

Issuing of certificates

223. Dr Arroyo praised the efforts deployed by those Members referred to below in disease control and eradication, and in compiling all necessary information so as to obtain an officially recognised animal health status or an endorsement of an official control programme.
224. Bolivia, Colombia and Russia were awarded a certificate from WOAH for their newly recognised animal health status, and Zambia was awarded a certificate for WOAH endorsement of its official control programme for dog-mediated rabies.
225. The President congratulated Members that had been granted a new status or had had their official control programme endorsed by the Assembly.

FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

Activities of the Regional Commissions

226. The President reminded participants that the reports of the meetings of the Regional Commissions that took place from 15 to 17 May 2023 had been made available on the General Session website on Tuesday 24 May ([Doc. 90 SG/9B](#)).
227. The President also reminded participants that the recommendations of the Conferences of the Regional Commissions that had taken place in a face to face format since June 2022, namely the 30th Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe, held in Catania, Italy, from 3 to 7 October 2022, and the 25th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa, held in Gaborone, Botswana, from 21 to 24 February 2023, had been made available on the General Session website a few weeks before the General Session ([Doc. 90 SG/9A](#)).
228. The President then asked if there were any comments.
229. There were no comments from participants. The President confirmed that the Assembly had noted the reports of the meetings of the Regional Commissions and had also endorsed the recommendations of the 30th Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe and the 25th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa.

Partial Elections

Members of the Council and members of the Bureaus of Regional Commissions Session

Reserved for Delegates or accredited delegates

230. Dr Jean-Philippe Dop, Deputy Director General, in charge of Institutional Affairs and Regional Activities, drew attention to the need for partial elections to fill vacancies on the Council and on some Regional Commissions.
231. Only Delegates of Members, as validated by the Credentials Committee, were eligible to adopt resolutions and vote in the partial elections. After an explanation of the election process, a simulated vote was held, using the secure online voting platform, to ensure that all participants fully understood the process. The Webcast was turned off during the elections.
232. Before the beginning of the session, the President of the Assembly confirmed that the quorum had been reached on the online voting platform (92 required). Dr Fajer Al-Saloom and Dr Roland X. Dlamini were designated as scrutineers.

Election of two Members of the Council

233. Following the departure of Dr Yobani Ravelo Gutierrez (Cuba), and upon a proposal of the Regional Commission for the Americas, the Assembly elected Dr Wilmer José Juárez Juárez (Nicaragua) as a Member of the Council.
234. Following the departure of Dr Christianne Bruschke (The Netherlands) and upon a proposal of the Regional Commission for Europe, the Assembly elected Dr Susana Guedes Pombo (Portugal) as a Member of the Council.

Election of the Vice President of the Assembly

235. Following the departure of Dr Bruschke (The Netherlands) who was also Vice-President of the Assembly, and on a proposal by the Regional Commission for Europe, the Assembly elected Dr Susana Guedes Pombo (Portugal) as Vice-President of the Assembly.

Election of the President, a Vice-President and the Secretary-General of the Regional Commission for the Americas

236. In response to a question from Australia, the Head of the WOAHA Legal Affairs Unit explained the need for a secret ballot during the Council elections, whereas it was not necessary for elections for the members of the Bureaus, as stipulated in the WOAHA Basic Texts.
237. The President informed the Assembly of the proposal of the Regional Commission to fill the vacant position of President and, in consequence, that of Vice-President and Secretary-General. He explained how filling a vacancy for one position with a current member of the Bureau would automatically lead to a vacancy in another position in the Bureau.
238. As a result of the elections, the Assembly noted the following changes to the composition of the Regional Commission for the Americas:

| | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| President | : | Dr Ximena Melón (Argentina) |
| Vice-President | : | Dr Rosemary Sifford (United States of America) |
| Secretary General | : | Dr Rafael Enrique Rodríguez Alvarado (Honduras) |

Election of a Vice-President and the Secretary-General of the Regional Commission for Europe

239. The President informed the Assembly of the proposal of the Regional Commission to fill the vacant position of Vice-President and, in consequence, that of Secretary-General. He explained how filling vacancies with a current member of the Bureau would automatically lead to a vacancy in another position in the Bureau.
240. As a result of the elections, the Assembly noted the following changes to the composition of the Regional Commission for Europe:

| | | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Vice-President | : | Dr Vasili Basiladze (Georgia) |
| Secretary General | : | Dr Nikolche Babovski (North Macedonia) |

Election of the President and a Vice-President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East

241. The President informed the Assembly of the proposal of the Regional Commission to fill the vacant position of President and, in consequence, that of Vice-President. He explained how filling vacancies with a current member of the Bureau would automatically lead to a vacancy in another position in the Bureau.
242. As a result of the elections, the Assembly noted the following changes to the composition of the Regional Commission for the Middle East:

| | | |
|----------------|---|----------------------------------|
| President | : | Dr Sanad Al-Harbi (Saudi Arabia) |
| Vice-President | : | Dr Rachel Dodeen (Jordan) |

243. As a result of these partial elections, the Assembly noted the new composition of the relevant Regional Commissions as follows:

Regional Commission for the Americas

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

Regional Commission for Europe

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

Regional Commission for the Middle East

President : Dr Sanad Al Harbi (Saudi Arabia)
Vice-President : Dr Rachel Dodeen (Jordan)
Vice-President : Dr Samah Alsharif (Oman)
Secretary General : Dr Elias Ibrahim (Lebanon)

All the above elected positions were for a one-year period until the elections for the next three-year mandate of the Council and the Regional Commissions, to be held in May 2024.

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| SECOND ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION |
|--------------------------------------|

244. Webcast streaming was resumed for the Second Administrative Session which was chaired by the President of the Assembly.
245. Dr Dop explained to the Assembly that the Second Administrative session had been organised into three blocks, following the presentation of the Activities of the Council by the President. The first block would be reporting back on the year 2022 as delineated in several documents and resolutions, the second would focus on financial years 2023 and 2024, including activities and related budgets, while the third block would present the Memorandum of Understanding between ILRI¹⁹ and WOAAH, the change of title of some Sub-Regional Representations and of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and the candidature of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to become a WOAAH Member.

Activities of the Council

([Doc. 90 SG/14](#))

246. The President reported on the activities of the Council in 2022.
247. The Assembly adopted the report on the activities of the Council as presented (Doc. 90 SG/14).

**2022 Financial Report
(1 January - 31 December 2022)**

([Doc. 90 SG/4](#))

248. Mr Xavier Pairault, Director of Administration, reminded the Delegates that the financial reports had been made available on the WOAAH website 60 days before the General Session. In addition, a financial summary report presenting the Director General's financial outlook had been shared with Delegates in April 2023.

¹⁹ ILRI: International Livestock Research Institute

249. Mr Pairault presented an aggregated overview of financial performance for the 96th Financial Year (2022) of WOAAH for the Regular Budget and for the World Fund pertaining to income and expenses. He put emphasis on the types of activities funded by the World Fund compared to the Regular Budget, while underscoring the interdependency of both budgets.
250. He informed the Assembly that the 2022 Financial Report (Doc. 90 SG/4) delineated performance against key financial performance indicators alongside other key financial information, such as the annual financial statements and accounting information on the financial situation of the various accounts managed by WOAAH.
251. He informed Members of the cost reduction measures put into place by WOAAH to ensure a balanced Regular Budget.
252. He warmly thanked Members and resource partners for their continuous support and investment in the Organisation.
253. The President gave the floor to the Delegates for comments.
254. No comments were received on Doc. 90 SG/4.

Report of the Auditors of the Council

[\(Doc. 90 SG/12\)](#)

255. Dr Fajer Sabah Al Saloom (Bahrain), on behalf of the Auditors of the Council (also comprised of Dr Roland Xolani Dlamini [Eswatini]), confirmed the proper management of the WOAAH accounts.
256. The Assembly noted the report of the Auditors of the Council.

Report of the External Auditor

[\(Doc. 90 SG/13\)](#)

257. After a presentation by the External Auditor summarising the document, the Assembly noted the report of the External Auditor appointed by WOAAH, Mr Didier Selles, and his recommendations.
258. The President gave the floor to the Delegates for spontaneous comments.
259. No comments were received on Doc. 90 SG/13.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 3 Approval of the 2022 Financial Report (1 January to 31 December 2022)

260. The President certified that the quorum had been reached, with 120 Delegates present in the room (92 being the minimum required) for the adoption of Draft Resolution No. 3.
261. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 3 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 3 at the end of this report.

Draft Administrative Resolutions adopted during the online voting procedure

262. The President certified that, as 112 Delegates had voted during the online procedure for the early adoption of some administrative resolutions, the quorum had been reached (92 being the minimum). The President divulged the results of the voting on the administrative resolutions proposed for adoption before the General Session.

| RESO | TITLE | YES | NO | ABS | RESULTS |
|-------|---|-----|----|-----|---------|
| No. 2 | Approval of the Director General's report on 2022 WOAHA Management, Activities and Administrative Work | 110 | 0 | 2 | ADOPTED |
| No. 4 | Acknowledgements to the Members and Partners that made Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies to WOAHA, or contributed in the Organisation of WOAHA Meetings and for the Provision of Personnel | 111 | 0 | 1 | ADOPTED |

2023 Revised Budget

[\(Doc. 90SG/5\)](#)

263. Mr Pairault presented an aggregated overview of the income and budgeted expenses for the Regular Budget and the World Fund in 2023 in order to provide the Assembly with a better understanding of these two budgets. He reminded the Assembly that only the Regular Budget was being submitted for adoption by Delegates.
264. Mr Pairault emphasised the significant efforts made by WOAHA to reduce costs despite inflation to balance the Regular Budget.
265. The President gave the floor to the Delegates for comments.
266. No comments were made on Doc. 90 SG/5.
267. The President certified that the quorum had been reached, as 120 Delegates were present in the room (92 being the minimum required) for the adoption of Draft Resolution No. 5.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 5 Modification of the 2023 Budget

268. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 5 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 5 at the end of this report.

2024 Budgeted Work Programme, Income Estimates and Related Contributions Scale

[\(Doc. 90 SG/6\)](#)

269. The Director General reminded the Assembly that WOAHA has considerably increased its services offering to Members thanks to continued investments through the World Fund. She stated that this increase in voluntary contributions was indicative of the trust and confidence of resource partners in WOAHA to deliver commitments on time. Notwithstanding, she underscored that the success of the World Fund did not reduce the chronic financial stress faced by the Regular Budget. To increase Members' understanding of the Organisation's financial situation, the Director General reminded the Assembly that WOAHA had completely revised its financial reports, providing greater transparency on the use of funds and the risks of the financial system. She highlighted that although the Organisation's Regular Budget benefited from overheads at a modest rate through the World Fund, the expansion in activities had put pressure on administrative procedures, threatening WOAHA's ability to deliver on time and meet Member and donors expectations. She drew the Assembly's attention to the fact that the Regular Budget's sustainability was crucial for the Organisation. For this reason, the Director General informed the Assembly that efforts were currently underway to diversify sources of funding coupled with a review and benchmarking of WOAHA's financial system compared to that of other international and regional organisations. She closed her introduction by calling on the Members to support the adoption of the 2024 budget.
270. Mr Pairault made reference to the budgetary dialogue that had been in place between the Director General of WOAHA and Delegates since the beginning of the Seventh Strategic Plan. As a result, members of the Council and Delegates had been informed of the Organisation's financial challenges to build a balanced 2024 budget considering the extremely high inflation rate (i.e. +9.6%).

271. He presented an aggregated overview of the budgets of the Regular Budget and the World Fund for 2024, underscoring that these had been prepared on a prudent basis, while highlighting the differences in the two budget sources and how they were being used to fund WOAHA activities.
272. With regard to the Regular Budget, Mr Pairault indicated that the 2024 Budget included a 15% increase in statutory contributions. During the recently held Meetings of the Regional Commissions (virtual), he had had the opportunity to justify this increase request. He reminded the Assembly that this increase had also been the subject of a budgetary dialogue with the Council and Members, and had included the submission of a specific financial summary report in April 2023. He pointed out that the work programme funded by the Regular Budget was entirely dependent on the total income received through statutory contributions and reiterated that a sustainable Regular Budget was essential in order to complement activities supported by voluntary contributions received through the World Fund.
273. He explained the rationale for the 15% increase in statutory contributions in 2024. He pointed out that this increase took into account the discussions that had already taken place the previous year which led the Assembly to validate the principle of an increase of 30% over three years (15%, 7.5% and 7.5% over the 2022-2024 period), in addition to the application of the OECD²⁰ Total Consumer Price Index (CPI) as per Resolution No. 15 of 24 May 2018. He informed the Assembly that the CPI index for 2022 amounted to 9.6% and had been included in the calculation for the 2024 statutory contributions.
274. He presented the Proposed 2024 Contributions Scale to the Assembly, recalling the recommendation of the Council to increase statutory contributions by 15%.
275. The President gave the floor to the Delegates for comments.
276. Regarding the proposed 15% increment in statutory contributions, the Delegate of Japan acknowledged the inevitable adverse impact on the WOAHA's financial situation due to global inflation and surging energy costs. He requested that WOAHA firmly exercise a meticulous examination to determine which budget lines should be covered by statutory contributions. Japan also asserted that any genuinely necessary increase should be subject to in-depth discussions to explore alternative approaches, such as appropriating budgetary transfers from the World Fund to the Regular Budget, prior to adoption. Furthermore, Japan requested that WOAHA continue efforts to enhance the Organisation's operational efficiency and pursue recovery of arrears from the Members concerned. In closing he urged WOAHA to promptly revise the rule allowing each Member to choose its contribution category, and establish more rational criteria, such as categorising Members based on their economy.
277. Spain shared its understanding of WOAHA's financial situation. Notwithstanding, he stated that the annual increase to statutory contributions was not viable in the long term considering the financial difficulties faced by its Members. To meet this new financial request, Spain would consequently be reducing its voluntary contributions as additional funding was not possible. He invited WOAHA to provide alternative financial solutions.
278. The Director General empathised with the financial difficulties faced by the Members. In response to Japan, she signalled that the Organisation's treaty stipulated the rule regarding Members being free to choose the statutory category in which they were registered and that any modification to the treaty would be extremely complex. She stated that WOAHA could only encourage Members to increase their category of statutory contributions. Concerning the recovery of arrears, she reminded the Assembly that the Members that had chronic arrears were in difficult socio-economic situations, limiting their capacity to pay their outstanding contributions.

²⁰ OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

279. The Director General thanked Spain for its decision to transfer voluntary contributions to statutory contributions to ensure its support to the increase in statutory contributions, but noted that this option was not available to all Members. She highlighted that although the Organisation's aggregated budget was sufficient, the equilibrium between income sources was concerning. She reiterated that the Organisation was not considering revising the treaty, and expressed hope that the forthcoming external study of the Basic Texts and benchmarking with other organisations would provide alternative proposals to be considered by the Council and Assembly.
280. The Netherlands supported the effort to revise the Basic Texts and thanked the Director General for her efforts to scope alternative solutions for the Organisation's financial sustainability.
281. The Director General thanked The Netherlands.
282. The President certified that the quorum had been reached, as 119 Delegates were present in the room (92 being the minimum required) for the adoption of Draft Resolutions Nos 6 to 8.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 6
WOAH Budgetary Incomes and Expenses for the 98th Financial Year and Related Planned Work Programme
(1 January to 31 December 2024)

283. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 6 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted [103 votes in favour, 2 votes against (Hungary and New Zealand) and 14 abstentions (Barbados, Chile, Colombia, Fiji, Honduras, Japan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Spain, Thailand, Uruguay and United States of America)]. The text appears under Resolution No. 6 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 7
Financial Contributions from WOA Members for 2024

284. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 7 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted [103 votes in favour, 2 votes against (Hungary and New Zealand) and 14 abstentions (Barbados, Chile, Colombia, Fiji, Honduras, Japan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Spain, Thailand, Uruguay and United States of America)]. The text appears under Resolution No. 7 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 8
Renewal of the Appointment of the External Auditor

285. The President proposed to the Assembly to renew for a period of one year (2024) the appointment of Mr Didier Selles of the *Cour des Comptes* (French Court of auditors) as External Auditor of WOA Accounts to audit the 2023 accounts.
286. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 8 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 8 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 9
Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the
International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
[\(Doc. 90 SG/15\)](#)

287. Dr Dop presented the Draft Resolution on the Memorandum of Understanding with ILRI previously supported by the Council.
288. Draft Resolution No. 9 was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 9 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 29
Change of name of certain Sub-Regional Representations and of one Regional Commission

289. Dr Dop presented the Draft Resolution and related rationale on the change of name of certain Sub-Regional Representations and of one Regional Commission approved by the Council.
290. Draft Resolution No. 29 was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 29 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 10
Accession of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the *Office International des Epizooties*
([Doc. 90 SG/16](#))

291. Dr Dop reminded Delegates of the procedure for examination of applications for accession to the Organisation, as adopted by the Assembly during the 81st General Session (Resolution No. 11 of 31 May 2013). After a reminder of the legal framework, the President informed the Assembly that the Council had examined the application by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for accession to the Organisation at its meeting in February 2023 and had approved it unanimously. Consequently, the President now sought the approval of the Assembly, pointing out that a two-thirds majority was needed.
292. Draft Resolution No. 10 was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 10 at the end of this report. Saint-Vincent and the Grenadines thus becomes the 183rd Member of the Organisation.
293. The newly-elected President of the Regional Commission for the Americas, Dr Ximena Mel 162n (Argentina), on behalf of the Delegate of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, thanked the President of the Assembly and the Delegates as well as the Authorities that had assisted Saint-Vincent and the Grenadines in the accession process and expressed her gratitude for Saint-Vincent and the Grenadines becoming the 183rd Member of the World Organisation for Animal Health.

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|-------------------------------|
| FOURTH PLENARY SESSION |
|-------------------------------|

Adoption of resolutions drafted during plenary sessions

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 20
Second addendum to Resolution No. 15 of 29 May 2020 on the “Procedures for Members for the official recognition and maintenance of animal health status of certain animal diseases or risk status of bovine spongiform encephalopathy and for the endorsement of official control programmes”

294. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 20 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 20 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 21
Amendments to the WOA *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

295. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 21 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 21 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 22
Amendments to the WOA *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*

296. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 22 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 22 at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 23
Amendments to the WOAAH *Terrestrial Animal Health Code***

297. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 23 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 23 at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 24
Amendments to the WOAAH *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals***

298. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 24 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 24 at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 26
Designation of WOAAH Collaborating Centres**

299. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 26 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 26 at the end of this report.

Dates of the 91st General Session (May 2024)

300. The Director General informed the Assembly that the 91st General Session of WOAAH would take place starting Sunday 26 May 2024. The format of the Assembly would be decided later.
301. A video was broadcast introducing the upcoming 100th anniversary of WOAAH to be celebrated in 2024.

Closing Session

302. Delegates were informed that the Draft Final Report of the technical and administrative sessions would be sent to them as soon as possible. The Delegates would then have two weeks to submit in writing any rectifications to the report, no amendments being permitted to the adopted Resolutions.
303. The Director General informed the Assembly that the General Session had been attended by 141 Members and over 600 participants on the livestream. She thanked the Delegates for their support.
304. The President thanked the Delegates, the Rapporteurs and the other participants for the quality of the debates. He congratulated the Director General, the staff of the Headquarters and Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, the translators and the technicians for the outstanding organisation of the new format of the General Session. He thanked the Presidents of the Specialist Commissions. He also thanked the interpreters and ended his address by declaring the 90th General Session closed.
305. He invited the Delegates to attend the 91st General Session in May 2024.

.../Resolutions/Regional Commission Reports

RESOLUTIONS

**adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates
during the 90th General Session
21 - 25 May 2023**

LIST OF RESOLUTIONS

Administrative resolutions:

- [No. 1](#) Approval of the Director General's Report on 2022 WOAHA Activities
- [No. 2](#) Approval of the Director General's Report on 2022 WOAHA Management, Activities and Administrative Work
- [No. 3](#) Approval of the 2022 Financial Report (1 January – 31 December 2022)
- [No. 4](#) Acknowledgements to the Members and Partners that made Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies to WOAHA, or contributed in the Organisation of WOAHA Meetings and the Provision of Personnel
- [No. 5](#) Modification of the 2023 Budget
- [No. 6](#) WOAHA Budgetary Incomes and Expenses for the 98th Financial Year and Related Planned Work Programme (1 January to 31 December 2024)
- [No. 7](#) Financial contributions from WOAHA Members for 2024
- [No. 8](#) Renewal of the Appointment of the External Auditor
- [No. 9](#) Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
- [No. 10](#) Accession of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the *Office International des Epizooties*

Technical resolutions

- [No. 11](#) Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members
- [No. 12](#) Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Foot and Mouth Disease of Members
- [No. 13](#) Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Members
- [No. 14](#) Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia of Members
- [No. 15](#) Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Members
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- [No. 17](#) Recognition of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Status of Members
- [No. 18](#) Recognition of the Classical Swine Fever Status of Members
- [No. 19](#) Endorsement of Official Control Programmes for dog-mediated rabies of Members
- [No. 20](#) Second addendum to Resolution No. 15 of 29 May 2020 on the "Procedures for Members for the official recognition and maintenance of animal health status of certain animal diseases or risk status of bovine spongiform encephalopathy and for the endorsement of official control programmes"
- [No. 21](#) Amendments to the WOAHA *Aquatic Animal Health Code*
- [No. 22](#) Amendments to the WOAHA *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*
- [No. 23](#) Amendments to the WOAHA *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*
- [No. 24](#) Amendments to the WOAHA *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*
- [No. 25](#) Designation of WOAHA Reference Laboratories for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases
- [No. 26](#) Designation of WOAHA Collaborating Centres
- [No. 27](#) Extension to the Designation of Facilities Holding Rinderpest Virus Containing Material to Maintain Global Freedom from Rinderpest
- [No. 28](#) Strategic challenges in the global control of high pathogenicity avian influenza
- [No. 29](#) Change of name of certain Sub-Regional Representations and of one Regional Commission
- [No. 30](#) Register of terrestrial animal diseases diagnostic kits validated and certified by WOAHA
- [No. 31](#) Register of aquatic animal disease diagnostic kits validated and certified by WOAHA_____

RESOLUTION N° 1

Approval of the Director General's Report on 2022 WOAHA Activities

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

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To approve the Director General's Report on 2022 WOAHA Activities (90 SG/1).

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 23 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

RESOLUTION No. 2

**Approval of the Director General's Report on 2022 WOAAH Management, Activities
and Administrative Work**

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

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To approve the Director General's Report on 2022 WOAAH Management, Activities and Administrative Work (90 SG/3).

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 25 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

RESOLUTION No. 3

**Approval of the 2022 Financial Report
(1 January – 31 December 2022)**

In application of Article 15 of the Organic Statutes and Article 6 of the Organic Rules of WOA, H,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To approve the Financial Report for the 96th Financial Year of WOA, H (1 January – 31 December 2022) (90 SG/4).

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 25 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

RESOLUTION No. 4

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

Having noted the voluntary contributions or subsidies received by WOAAH in 2022 and the in-person meetings organised by WOAAH in 2022,

THE ASSEMBLY

REQUESTS

The Director General to sincerely thank:

1. Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Canada, China (People's Rep. of), Colombia, Cyprus, Djibouti, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Korea (Rep. of), Mexico, the Netherlands (through the AMR MPTF), New Zealand, Oman, Panama, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden (through the AMR MPTF), Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States of America;

The European Union, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, the World Bank and the World Health Organization;

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Donkey Sanctuary, Four Paws, Galvmed, International Coalition for Working Equids, the International Horse Sports Confederation, the Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (OIRSA), the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and St Jude's Hospital;

for their voluntary contributions or subsidies to support WOAAH in 2022.

2. Australia, Belgium, Bhutan, Cameroon, China (People's Rep. of), Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Georgia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mongolia, Mozambique, Paraguay, Panama, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America and Zambia;

for their contribution to the organisation of WOAAH workshops that were held during 2022.

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

for seconding national experts to WOAAH in 2022.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 25 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

RESOLUTION No. 5

Modification of the 2023 Budget

In accordance with Article 15 of the Organic Statutes and Article 6.h of the Organic Rules of WOA, H,

Considering the variation in expenses and income for the 97th Financial Year (1 January to 31 December 2023),

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To modify Resolution No. 6 of 26 May 2022 and replace paragraphs 1.2 a and 1.2 b of said Resolution with the following paragraphs:

1. The budget for the 97th Financial Year, for the period 1 January to 31 December 2023, is set in terms of income and expenses at EUR 19 497 600:

1.1. Income

| Sections | Description | Amount EUR |
|------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Section 1 | Members' contributions (Article 11 - Organic Statutes and Article 14 - Organic Rules) | 12 873 000 |
| | Extraordinary contributions | 918 100 |
| | Sub-total Section 1 | 13 791 100 |
| Section 2 | Registration fees (General Session, conferences) | - |
| | Publication sales | - |
| | Fees for evaluation of sanitary status applications | 140 000 |
| | World Fund overheads | 1 400 000 |
| | Internal contributions | 845 000 |
| | Other operating revenue | 2 266 500 |
| | Sub-total Section 2 | 4 651 500 |
| Section 3 | Investment income | 20 000 |
| | Extraordinary income | - |
| | Recovery of investment subsidies | 33 000 |
| | Reversal of provisions | 417 000 |
| | Sub-total Section 3 | 470 000 |
| SUB-TOTAL | | 18 912 600 |
| Carry over 2020 | | 585 000 |
| TOTAL | | 19 497 600 |

1.2. Expenses by budgetary chapters

| Budgetary chapters | Amount EUR |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. Information Management | 4 302 150 |
| 2. Standard Setting and Implementation | 2 628 400 |
| 3. Capacity Building | 21 000 |
| 4. Global Frameworks | 832 900 |
| 5. International Collaboration | 0 |
| 6. Institutional Governance | 3 396 680 |
| 7. General Administration | 5 655 790 |
| 8. Regional and sub-regional Representations | 1 608 800 |
| 9. Depreciation and Amortisation Expenses | 1 051 880 |
| TOTAL | 19 497 600 |

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 25 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

²RESOLUTION No. 6

**WOAH Budgetary Incomes and Expenses for the 98th Financial Year
and Related Planned Work Programme
(1 January to 31 December 2024)**

In accordance with Article 15 of the Organic Statutes and Article 6.h of the Organic Rules of WOA, H,

CONSIDERING the Seventh Strategic Plan of WOA, H, established for the 2021-2025 period,

THE ASSEMBLY, ON THE PROPOSAL OF THE COUNCIL

1) DECIDES

- 1.1) To approve the Planned Work Programme for 2024 (90 SG/6), subject to prioritisation by the Council to ensure that expenditure remains within the allotted budget.
- 1.2) That the budget for the 98th Financial Year, for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2024, shall be set in terms of income and expenses at EUR 18 848 600 and established as follows:

a. Income

| Sections | Description | Amount EUR |
|-----------|---|-------------------|
| Section 1 | Member contributions (Article 11 - Organic Statutes and Article 14 - Organic Rules) | 14 804 000 |
| | Extraordinary contributions | 817 000 |
| | Sub-total Section 1 | 15 621 000 |
| Section 2 | Registration fees (General Session, conferences) | - |
| | Publication sales | - |
| | Fees for evaluating disease status dossiers | 140 000 |
| | World Fund overheads | 1 400 000 |
| | Internal contributions | 820 000 |
| | Other operating revenue | 295 215 |
| | Sub-total Section 2 | 2 655 215 |
| Section 3 | Investment income | 51 885 |
| | Extraordinary income | - |
| | Recovery of investment subsidies | 32 500 |
| | Reversal of provisions | 488 000 |
| | Sub-total Section 3 | 572 385 |
| | TOTAL | 18 848 600 |

b. Expenses by Budgetary Chapters

| Budgetary Chapters | Amount EUR |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. Information Management | 2 825 100 |
| 2. Standard Setting and Implementation | 2 667 000 |
| 3. Capacity Building | 21 000 |
| 4. Global Frameworks | 995 000 |
| 5. International Collaboration | 0 |
| 6. Institutional Governance | 3 531 000 |
| 7. General Administration | 5 844 500 |
| 8. Regional and Sub-Regional Representations | 1 665 000 |
| 9. Depreciation and Amortisation Expenses | 1 300 000 |
| TOTAL | 18 848 600 |

2) RECOMMENDS THAT

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

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 25 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

RESOLUTION No. 7

Financial contributions from WOA H Members for 2024

In accordance with Article 11 of the Organic Statutes and Article 14 of the Organic Rules,

CONSIDERING

Resolution No. 8 dated 1 June 2001 related to contributions by the Least Developed Countries (LDC),

Resolution No. 11 of 30 May 2014 creating two categories of extraordinary contributions,

The recommendation from the WOA H Council for Members to endorse a 15% increase in statutory contributions for 2024,

The financial summary report titled “Director General’s financial outlook” sent to all WOA H Delegates on 27 April 2023,

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

- 1) that the annual statutory contribution from WOA H Members for the 2024 Financial Year are as follows:

| Category | Annual total contribution |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 st category | 295 025 EUR |
| 2 nd category | 236 020 EUR |
| 3 rd category | 177 015 EUR |
| 4 th category | 118 010 EUR |
| 5 th category | 59 005 EUR |
| 6 th category | 35 403 EUR |

that, in accordance with the six-category scale, WOA H will only call for 50% of the total contributions due from the Members classified as Least Developed Countries (LDCs) by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

- 2) that Members, while retaining the choice of category in which they are registered, may contribute to one of the two extraordinary categories for 2024. In this case, the concerned Members shall be exempt from their statutory contribution for the year in question.

The two extraordinary categories of contribution to be paid as a lump sum are as follows:

Category A: EUR 500 000 minimum

Category B: EUR 300 000 minimum

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 25 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

RESOLUTION No. 8

Renewal of the Appointment of the External Auditor

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

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To renew for a one year period the appointment of Mr Didier Selles of the *Cour des comptes* (French Court of auditors) as External Auditor of WOAHA Accounts to audit the 2023 accounts.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 25 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

RESOLUTION No. 9

Memorandum of Understanding between the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

CONSIDERING

The Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) signed on 12 March 2004,

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

The Memorandum of Understanding between WOAH and ILRI (90 SG/15) was approved following the deliberations of the Council on 1 March 2023,

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

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

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 25 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

RESOLUTION No. 10

Accession of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the *Office International des Epizooties*

HAVING REGARD TO

Article 6 of the International Agreement,

The Organic Rules, particularly article 3 designating the organs in charge of the functioning of the Organisation, and article 5 stating that the Organisation is under the authority and the control of the Assembly,

The General Rules, particularly article 1 stating that the Assembly is the highest authority of the Organisation and that its wishes shall be expressed by Resolutions, as well as article 50 stating that decisions related to the applications for accession received from 31 May 2013 are based on a two thirds majority,

The Resolution No. 11 of 31 May 2013 establishing a procedure for examination of applications for accession to the Organisation, applicable only to membership applications received from 31 May 2013,

The application of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines dated 13 October 2022,

CONSIDERING

The decision of the Council at its meeting held on 28 February 2023, which was expressed unanimously in favour of the accession of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the *Office International des Epizooties*.

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To accept the application for accession of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to become a Member of the *Office International des Epizooties*.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 25 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

RESOLUTION No. 11

Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

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

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

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

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Albania | Dominican Republic | Latvia | Portugal ²⁴ |
| Australia | El Salvador | Lesotho | Romania |
| Austria | Estonia | Lithuania | San Marino |
| Belarus | Eswatini | Luxembourg | Serbia ²⁵ |
| Belgium | Finland ²² | Madagascar | Singapore |
| Belize | France ²³ | Malta | Slovakia |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Germany | Mexico | Slovenia |
| Brunei | Greece | Montenegro | Spain ²⁶ |
| Bulgaria | Guatemala | New Caledonia | Suriname |
| Canada | Guyana | New Zealand | Sweden |
| Chile | Haiti | Nicaragua | Switzerland |
| Costa Rica | Honduras | North Macedonia (Rep. of) | The Netherlands |
| Croatia | Hungary | Norway | Ukraine |
| Cuba | Iceland | Panama | United Kingdom ²⁷ |
| Cyprus | Ireland | Peru | United States of America ² |
| Czech Republic | Italy | Philippines | Vanuatu |
| Denmark ²¹ | Japan | Poland | |

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

Paraguay, Uruguay

3. The Director General publish the following List of Members having FMD-free zones²⁹ where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

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

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

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

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

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

Botswana: four zones designated by the Delegate of Botswana in documents addressed to the Director General in August and November 2014 as follows:

- one zone consisting of Zones 3c (Dukwi), 4b, 5, 6a, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13;
- one zone consisting of Zone 3c (Maitengwe);
- one zone covering Zone 4a;
- one zone covering Zone 6b, with the exclusion of the containment zone as designated by the Delegate of Botswana in documents addressed to the

²¹ Including Faroe Islands and Greenland.

²² Including Åland Islands.

²³ Including French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Réunion, Saint Pierre and Miquelon.

²⁴ Including Azores and Madeira.

²⁵ Excluding Kosovo administered by the United Nations.

²⁶ Including Balearic Islands and Canary Islands.

²⁷ Including Guernsey (incl. Alderney and Sark), Isle of Man, Jersey and Falkland Islands (Malvinas). (A dispute exists between the Government of Argentina and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) [see resolution 2065 (XX) of the General Assembly of the United Nations]).

²⁸ Including American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.

²⁹ For detailed information on the delimitation of zones of Members recognised as free from FMD, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of WOAH.

Director General in November 2022 and February 2023;

one zone covering Zone 3b designated by the Delegate of Botswana in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2016;

one zone covering Zone 7 designated by the Delegate of Botswana in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2018;

Brazil: State of Santa Catarina designated by the Delegate of Brazil in a document addressed to the Director General in February 2007;

three zones of Brazil as designated by the Delegate of Brazil in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2020 as follows:

- State of Paraná;
- State of Rio Grande do Sul;
- one zone (Block 1) including the States of Acre and Rondônia and 14 municipalities in the State of Amazonas and five municipalities in the State of Mato Grosso;

Chinese Taipei: one zone covering Taiwan, Penghu and Matsu areas, as designated by the Delegate of Chinese Taipei in a document addressed to the Director General in September 2019;

Colombia: one zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in November 1995 and in April 1996 (Area I - Northwest region of Chocó Department);

one zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in January 2008 (Archipelago de San Andrés and Providencia);

Ecuador: one zone consisting of the insular territory of the Galápagos, as designated by the Delegate of Ecuador in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2014;

Malaysia: one zone covering the provinces of Sabah and Sarawak as designated by the Delegate of Malaysia in a document addressed to the Director General in December 2003;

Moldova: one zone designated by the Delegate of Moldova in a document addressed to the Director General in July 2008;

Namibia: one zone designated by the Delegate of Namibia in a document addressed to the Director General in February 1997;

Russia: one zone designated by the Delegate of Russia in documents addressed to the Director General in August 2015 and March 2016;

4. The Director General publish the following List of Members having FMD-free zones³⁰ where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina: two separate zones designated by the Delegate of Argentina in documents addressed to the Director General in March 2007 and October 2013, and in August 2010 and February 2014;

Bolivia: one zone covering the regions of Chaco, Valles and parts of Amazonas and Altiplano as designated by the Delegate of Bolivia in documents addressed to the Director General in October 2013, February 2014 and August 2018;

Brazil: one zone consisting of two merged zones designated by the Delegate of Brazil in

³⁰ For detailed information on the delimitation of zones of Members recognised as free from FMD, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of WOAHP.

documents addressed to the Director General in August 2010, September 2017 and September 2019, covering the States of Alagoas, Amapá, Amazonas, Bahia, Ceará, Espírito Santo, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Maranhão, Minas Gerais, Pará, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Piauí, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Norte, Roraima, São Paulo, Sergipe, Tocantins and Distrito Federal, with the exclusion of the municipalities of the States of Amazonas and Mato Grosso that are part of the zone of Block 1 (free from FMD where vaccination is not practised) as addressed to the Director General in August 2020;

Chinese Taipei: one zone consisting of Kinmen County as designated by the Delegate of Chinese Taipei in a document addressed to the Director General in September 2017;

Colombia: three separate zones designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in September 2019 as follows:

- Zone I (Northern border) consisting of Departments of La Guajira, Cesar and part of the Department of Norte de Santander;
- Zone III (Trade) consisting of the Departments of Atlántico, Córdoba, Magdalena, Sucre and part of Antioquia, Bolívar and Chocó Departments;
- Zone IV (Rest of the country), consisting of the Departments of Amazonas, Caldas, Caquetá, Cauca, Casanare, Cundinamarca, Guainía, Guaviare, Huila, Meta, Nariño, Quindío, Putumayo, Risaralda, Santander, Tolima, Valle del Cauca, Vaupés and part of Antioquia, Bolívar, Boyacá, and Chocó Departments,

one zone consisting of two merged zones designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in September 2019 and in August 2020, which includes Zone II (Eastern border) and the former high surveillance zone covering the Departments of Arauca and Vichada and the municipality of Cubará of the Department of Boyacá;

one zone, namely Protection Zone I (PZ I) covering 29 municipalities of the Department of Norte de Santander, as designated by the Delegate of Colombia in a document addressed to the Director General in September 2022;

Ecuador: one zone consisting of the continental Ecuador, as designated by the Delegate of Ecuador in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2014;

Kazakhstan: five separate zones designated by the Delegate of Kazakhstan in documents addressed to the Director General in August 2016 as follows:

- Zone 1 consisting of Almaty region;
- Zone 2 consisting of East Kazakhstan region;
- Zone 3 including part of Kyzylorda region, northern part of South Kazakhstan region, northern and central parts of Zhambyl region;
- Zone 4 including southern part of Kyzylorda region and south-western part of South Kazakhstan region;
- Zone 5 including south-eastern part of South Kazakhstan region and southern part of Zhambyl region;

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

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

one zone of Eastern Siberia consisting of two Subjects (Republic of Tuva and Republic

of Buryatia) and one Raion of the Republic of Altai (Kosh-Agachsky Raion) designated by the Delegate of Russia in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2021;

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

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

AND

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

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 23 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

RESOLUTION No. 12

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

CONSIDERING THAT

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

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

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

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------|----------|
| Botswana | Kyrgyzstan | Namibia |
| China (People's Rep. of) | Morocco | Thailand |
| India | | |
2. The Delegates of these Members shall notify WOAHP Headquarters the occurrence of FMD, changes in the epidemiological situation and other significant events in their countries or territories in accordance with Chapter 1.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 23 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

RESOLUTION No. 13

Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

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

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

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

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Argentina | Eswatini | Peru |
| Australia | France ³¹ | Portugal ³² |
| Bolivia | India | Russia |
| Botswana | Italy | Singapore |
| Brazil | Mexico | South Africa |
| Canada | Mongolia | Switzerland |
| China (People's Rep. of) | New Caledonia | United States of America |
| Colombia | Paraguay | Uruguay |
| Ecuador | | |

2. The Director General publish the following List of Members having a CBPP-free zone³³ according to the provisions of Chapter 11.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

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

AND

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

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 23 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

³¹ Including French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, and Réunion.

³² Including Azores and Madeira.

³³ For detailed information on the delimitation of the zone of the Member recognised as free from CBPP, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of WOA.

RESOLUTION No. 14

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

CONSIDERING THAT

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

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

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

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

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 23 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

RESOLUTION No. 15

Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

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

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

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

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Argentina | Denmark | Latvia | Poland |
| Australia | Estonia | Liechtenstein | Portugal ³⁵ |
| Austria | Finland ³⁴ | Lithuania | Romania |
| Belgium | France | Luxembourg | Serbia ³⁶ |
| Bolivia | Germany | Malta | Singapore |
| Brazil | Hungary | Mexico | Slovakia |
| Bulgaria | Iceland | Namibia | Slovenia |
| Canada | India | New Zealand | Spain ³⁷ |
| Chile | Ireland | Nicaragua | Sweden |
| Colombia | Israel | Norway | Switzerland |
| Costa Rica | Italy | Panama | The Netherlands |
| Croatia | Japan | Paraguay | United States of America |
| Cyprus | Korea (Rep. of) | Peru | Uruguay |
| Czech Republic | | | |

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

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| Chinese Taipei | Greece |
| Ecuador | Russia |

3. The Director General publish the following List of Members with zones³⁸ recognised as having a negligible BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

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

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

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

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

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

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

AND

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

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 23 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

³⁴ Including Åland Islands.

³⁵ Including Azores and Madeira.

³⁶ Excluding Kosovo administered by the United Nations.

³⁷ Including Balearic Islands and Canary Islands.

³⁸ For detailed information on the delimitation of the zones of the Members recognised as having a negligible or controlled BSE risk, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of WOAHA.

RESOLUTION No. 16

Recognition of the African Horse Sickness Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

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

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

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

| | | | |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Algeria | Cyprus | Kuwait | Portugal ⁴² |
| Andorra | Czech Republic | Latvia | Qatar |
| Argentina | Denmark | Liechtenstein | Romania |
| Australia | Ecuador | Lithuania | Singapore |
| Austria | Estonia | Luxembourg | Slovakia |
| Azerbaijan | Finland ⁴⁰ | Malta | Slovenia |
| Bahrain | France ⁴¹ | Mexico | Spain ⁴³ |
| Belgium | Germany | Morocco | Sweden |
| Bolivia | Greece | New Caledonia | Switzerland |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Hungary | New Zealand | Thailand |
| Brazil | Iceland | North Macedonia (Rep. of) | The Netherlands |
| Bulgaria | India | Norway | Tunisia |
| Canada | Ireland | Oman | Türkiye (Rep. of) |
| Chile | Italy | Paraguay | United Arab Emirates |
| China (People's Rep. of) ³⁹ | Japan | Peru | United Kingdom ⁴⁴ |
| Chinese Taipei | Kazakhstan | Philippines | United States of America ⁴⁵ |
| Colombia | Korea (Rep. of) | Poland | Uruguay |
| Croatia | | | |

AND

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

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 23 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

³⁹ Including Hong Kong and Macau.

⁴⁰ Including Åland Islands.

⁴¹ Including French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Réunion, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Martin, Saint Pierre and Miquelon.

⁴² Including Azores and Madeira.

⁴³ Including Balearic Islands and Canary Islands.

⁴⁴ Including Cayman Islands, Guernsey (incl. Alderney and Sark), Isle of Man, Jersey, Saint Helena and Falkland Islands (Malvinas). (A dispute exists between the Government of Argentina and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) [see resolution 2065 (XX) of the General Assembly of the United Nations]).

⁴⁵ Including American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.

RESOLUTION No. 17

Recognition of the Peste des Petits Ruminants Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

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

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

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

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Argentina | Denmark | Liechtenstein | Portugal ⁴⁸ |
| Australia | Ecuador | Lithuania | Romania |
| Austria | Estonia | Luxembourg | Russia |
| Belgium | Eswatini | Madagascar | Singapore |
| Bolivia | Finland ⁴⁶ | Malta | Slovakia |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | France ⁴⁷ | Mauritius | Slovenia |
| Botswana | Germany | Mexico | South Africa |
| Brazil | Greece | New Caledonia | Spain ⁴⁹ |
| Canada | Hungary | New Zealand | Sweden |
| Chile | Iceland | North Macedonia (Rep. of) | Switzerland |
| Chinese Taipei | Ireland | Norway | The Netherlands |
| Colombia | Italy | Paraguay | United Kingdom ⁵⁰ |
| Croatia | Korea (Rep. of) | Peru | United States of America ⁵¹ |
| Cyprus | Latvia | Philippines | Uruguay |
| Czech Republic | Lesotho | Poland | |

2. The Director General publish the following List of Members having a PPR-free zone⁵² according to the provisions of Chapter 14.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

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

AND

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

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 23 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

⁴⁶ Including Åland Islands.

⁴⁷ Including French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Réunion, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Martin, Saint Pierre and Miquelon.

⁴⁸ Including Azores and Madeira.

⁴⁹ Including Balearic Islands and Canary Islands.

⁵⁰ Including Cayman Islands, Guernsey (incl. Alderney and Sark), Isle of Man, Jersey, Saint Helena and Falkland Islands (Malvinas). (A dispute exists between the Government of Argentina and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) [see resolution 2065 (XX) of the General Assembly of the United Nations]).

⁵¹ Including American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.

⁵² For detailed information on the delimitation of the zone of the Member recognised as free from PPR, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of WOAHP.

RESOLUTION No. 18

Recognition of the Classical Swine Fever Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

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

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

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

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|--|
| Argentina | Germany | Paraguay |
| Australia | Hungary | Poland |
| Austria | Ireland | Portugal ⁵⁵ |
| Belgium | Italy | Slovakia |
| Bulgaria | Latvia | Slovenia |
| Canada | Liechtenstein | Spain ⁵⁶ |
| Chile | Luxembourg | Sweden |
| Costa Rica | Malta | Switzerland |
| Croatia | Mexico | The Netherlands |
| Czech Republic | New Caledonia | United Kingdom ⁵⁷ |
| Denmark | New Zealand | United States of America ⁵⁸ |
| Finland ⁵³ | Norway | Uruguay |
| France ⁵⁴ | | |

2. The Director General publish the following List of Members having CSF-free zones⁵⁹ according to the provisions of Chapter 15.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

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

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

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

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

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

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

AND

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

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 23 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

⁵³ Including Åland Islands.

⁵⁴ Including French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte and Réunion.

⁵⁵ Including Azores and Madeira.

⁵⁶ Including Balearic Islands and Canary Islands.

⁵⁷ Including Guernsey (incl. Alderney and Sark), Isle of Man and Jersey.

⁵⁸ Including Guam, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.

⁵⁹ For detailed information on the delimitation of the zones of the Members recognised as free from CSF, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of WOAHP.

RESOLUTION No. 19

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

CONSIDERING THAT

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

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following List of Members with an endorsed official control programme for dog-mediated rabies, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.14. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

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

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 23 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

RESOLUTION No. 20

**Second addendum to Resolution No. 15 of 29 May 2020 on the
“Procedures for Members for the official recognition and maintenance of animal health status of
certain animal diseases or risk status of bovine spongiform encephalopathy and for the endorsement of
official control programmes”**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the Adapted Procedure 2020, the World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) adopted Resolution No. 15, which described the procedures that Members should follow to achieve the official recognition and maintenance of animal health status of certain animal diseases or risk status of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and for the endorsement of official control programmes,
2. During the 90th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 23, which included in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* the revised provisions on BSE and on the application for official recognition by WOA of risk status for BSE,

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES THAT

1. the evaluation of the applications for the official recognition and the annual reconfirmation of BSE risk status will be based on the revised provisions adopted during the 90th General Session, beginning from the annual cycle of May 2024 – May 2025;
2. the maintenance of the BSE risk status, should a case of BSE occur in a Member or zone recognised as posing a negligible or controlled risk for BSE, will be defined based on the revised provisions adopted during the 90th General Session, immediately after their entry into force as defined in the Resolution No. 23;
3. this Resolution No. 20 complements Resolution No. 15 adopted during the Adapted Procedure 2020 and Resolution No. 22 adopted at the 88th General Session, which remains in force.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 25 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

RESOLUTION No. 21

Amendments to the WOA *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The content of the WOA *Aquatic Animal Health Code* (the *Aquatic Code*) is the result of modifications made by the World Assembly of Delegates during previous WOA General Sessions,
2. It is necessary to update the *Aquatic Code* in accordance with amendments proposed by the WOA Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Annexes 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 of Document 90 SG/10/CS4), after consultation with the World Assembly of Delegates.

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the *Aquatic Code* proposed in Annexes 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12 of Document 90 SG/10/CS4 in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic;
2. To adopt the updates to the *Aquatic Code* proposed in Annex 8 of Document 90 SG/10/CS4 in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic, with the following modifications:
 - 2.1. In Annex 8 (Chapter 10.X. Infection with tilapia lake virus):
 - a) In Article 10.X.3., to place points 1 and 2 under study.
 - b) In Article 10.X.5., to place the final paragraph under study.
 - c) In Article 10.X.6., to place the final paragraph under study.
3. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the *Aquatic Code* with appropriate numbering and formatting.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 25 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

RESOLUTION No. 22

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

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The content of the WOAHA *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals* (the *Aquatic Manual*) is the result of modifications made by the World Assembly of Delegates during previous WOAHA General Sessions,
2. It is necessary to update the *Aquatic Manual* in accordance with amendments proposed by the WOAHA Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Annexes 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33 of Document 90 SG/10/CS4), after consultation with the World Assembly of Delegates.

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the following updates to the *Aquatic Manual* chapters proposed in the Annexes of Document 90 SG/10/CS4 in English, the text being authentic;

Chapter 2.2.1. Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis diseases (Annex 22)

Chapter 2.2.3. Infection with *Hepatobacter penaei* (necrotising hepatopancreatitis) (Annex 23)

Chapter 2.2.4. Infection with infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus (Annex 24)

Chapter 2.2.5. Infection with infectious myonecrosis virus (Annex 25)

Chapter 2.2.7. Infection with Taura syndrome virus (Annex 26)

Chapter 2.2.8. Infection with White spot syndrome virus (Annex 27)

Chapter 2.3.1. Infection with *Aphanomyces invadans* (epizootic ulcerative syndrome) (Annex 28)

With the amendments approved by the Assembly:

In Table 4.4.2 Primer and probe sequences for the conventional polymerase chain reaction (PCR), method 1, correct the cycling parameters by deleting the repetition of “95°C/30 sec,” after “56°C/45 sec” and “72°C/2.5 min”

In method 2, correct the second cycling condition by changing “65°C/45 sec” to “65°C/30 sec”

Chapter 2.3.2. Infection with epizootic haematopoietic necrosis virus (Annex 29)

With the amendments approved by the Assembly:

In Table 4.4.2 Primer and probe sequences for the conventional PCR, correct the cycling parameters by adding “94°C/30 sec” before “50°C/30 sec” and adding “72°C/1 min” after “50°C/30 sec”

Section 2.2.1 of Chapter 2.3.9. Infection with spring viraemia of carp virus (Annex 30)

Sections 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 of Chapter 2.4.2 Infection with *Bonamia exitiosa* (Annex 31)

Sections 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 of Chapter 2.4.3 Infection with *Bonamia ostreae* (Annex 32)

Sections 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 of Chapter 2.4.4 Infection with *Marteilia refringens* (Annex 33)

2. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted text in a revised edition of the *Aquatic Manual* with appropriate numbering and formatting.
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 25 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

RESOLUTION No. 23

Amendments to the WOA *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The content of the WOA *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) is the result of modifications made by the World Assembly of Delegates at previous WOA General Sessions;
2. It is necessary to update the *Terrestrial Code* in accordance with amendments proposed by the WOA Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Annexes 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 of Document 90 SG/10/CS1), after consultation with the World Assembly of Delegates.

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the *Terrestrial Code* proposed in Annexes 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 of Document 90 SG/10/CS1 in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic;
2. To adopt the updates to the *Terrestrial Code* proposed in Annexes 6, 9, 12 and 13 of Document 90 SG/10/CS1 in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic, with the following modifications:
 - 2.1. In Annex 6 (Chapter 7.8.)
 - a) Remove the proposal to delete the definition for ‘Suffering’.
 - 2.2. In Annex 9 (Chapter 8.14.)
 - a) Remove the proposed Article 8.14.6bis. and the proposed amendments to Article 8.14.7.
 - 2.3. In Annex 12 (Chapter 11.4.)
 - a) In Article 11.4.3., in point 4,
add ‘or food’ after ‘feed’.
 - b) In Article 11.4.5bis., in the first paragraph,
replace ‘Articles 11.4.3. or 11.4.4.’ with ‘point 4 of Article 11.4.3.’.
 - c) In the English version only, in Article 11.4.10., in point 3 c) i),
add ‘were’ before ‘derived’.
 - d) In Article 11.4.18., in point 2, in the second paragraph,
replace ‘a downer (non-ambulatory)’ with ‘unable to rise or walk without assistance’.
 - e) In the English and Spanish versions only, in Article 11.4.18., in points 2 a), 2 c) and 2 d),
add ‘clinical’ before ‘presentation’ and “clínico” after “cuadro”, respectively.

- f) In Article 11.4.18., in point 2 c),

replace ‘presented as downers (non-ambulatory)’ with ‘unable to rise or walk without assistance’.

2.4. In Annex 13 (Chapter 1.8.)

- a) In Article 1.8.5., in point 2 a) iv), in the first paragraph,

replace ‘BSE agents’ with ‘the classical BSE agent’.

- b) In Article 1.8.5., in point 2 a) v), in the first paragraph,

replace ‘BSE agents’ with ‘the classical BSE agent’.

- c) In Article 1.8.6., in Table 1, point (C),

replace ‘presented as downers (non-ambulatory)’ with ‘unable to rise or walk without assistance’.

3. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the *Terrestrial Code* with appropriate numbering and formatting.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 25 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

RESOLUTION No. 24

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

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual)*, like the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, is an important contribution to the international harmonisation of sanitary standards related to terrestrial animals and animal products,
2. Members were asked for the comments of their specialists for each new or revised chapter of the *Terrestrial Manual* before it was finalised by the Biological Standards Commission,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the following texts for the *Terrestrial Manual*:

Glossary of terms

- 1.1.6. Principles and methods of validation of diagnostic assays for infectious diseases

- 1.1.10. Veterinary vaccines

With the amendments approved by the Assembly:

In lines 33–34, *Summary*, to delete the words “unless shelf-life can be extended by appropriate testing and subject to approval by the relevant regulatory authority” after the words “must be discarded and destroyed”

- 3.1.1. Anthrax

With the amendments approved by the Assembly:

In line 44, Section A *Introduction*, to add the words “and anus” after the word “nostril” and the words “(for example plugged with cotton wool or other suitable material soaked in an approved disinfectant)” after the words “should be closed”

- 3.1.5. Crimean–Congo haemorrhagic fever

- 3.1.18. Rabies (infection with rabies virus and other lyssaviruses)

- 3.1.19. Rift Valley fever (infection with Rift Valley fever virus)

With the amendments approved by the Assembly:

In lines 20–21, *Summary*, to add the words “using correct personal protective equipment” after “biocontainment measures”, and delete the sentence “It is recommended that laboratory workers be vaccinated if possible.”

In lines 86–88, Section A *Introduction*, to add “work under strict biosafety and biocontainment environments where they use correct personal protective equipment to protect themselves against possible infection” after “Staff should” and delete “be vaccinated when a vaccine is available”.

- 3.1.22. Trichinellosis (infection with *Trichinella* spp.)

- 3.2.2. American foulbrood of honey bees (infection of honey bees with *Paenibacillus larvae*)

- 3.2.3. European foulbrood of honey bees (infection of honey bees with *Melissococcus plutonius*)

With the amendments approved by the Assembly:

In line 10, *Summary*, to delete the sentence “Both disease signs and the presence of *M. plutonius* are required for diagnosis.” and reinstate the text “Most infected colonies display few visible signs.”

3.3.10. Fowlpox

With the amendments approved by the Assembly:

In Table 1. *Test methods available for diagnosis of fowl pox and their purpose*, to change the rating of the PCR from “+” to “–” for the purpose “Prevalence of infection – surveillance”

3.3.13. Marek’s disease

With the amendments approved by the Assembly:

In line 86, Section A *Introduction*, to replace the word “ovary” with “gonads”

In Table 1 *Features useful in differentiating Marek’s disease, lymphoid leukosis and reticuloendotheliosis*, to replace “Neural involvement” with “Peripheral nerves” in the description of microscopic lesions, and to replace “Diffuse” with “Focal/multifocal in layers or diffuse in broiler breeders” in the row describing splenic lesions in Marek’s disease.

3.4.12. Lumpy skin disease

With the amendments approved by the Assembly:

In lines 82–83, Section A *Introduction*, to delete the sentence “Some wildlife species are susceptible to LSD.”

3.7.2. Rabbit haemorrhagic disease

3.9.7. Influenza A virus of swine

With the amendments approved by the Assembly:

In line 399, Section B.1.6 *Reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction*, to replace the word “discriminate” with “differentiate” twice in the sentence.

3.10.1. Bunyaviral diseases of animals (excluding Rift Valley fever and Crimean–Congo haemorrhagic fever)

With the amendments approved by the Assembly:

In lines 536–537, Section B2.4.1.1 *Infection inhibition in microtitre plates*, to replace the word “plaques” with “lesions”.

2. To request the Director General to publish the adopted texts in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 25 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

RESOLUTION No. 25

Designation of WOAHP Reference Laboratories for terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases

CONSIDERING THAT

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

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

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

WOAHP Reference Laboratory for lumpy skin disease

Exotic and vector-borne diseases (EXOVEC), Department of infectious diseases in animals, Sciensano, Uccle, BELGIUM

*WOAHP Reference Laboratory for American foulbrood (infection of honey bees with *Paenibacillus* larvae)*

Animal Health Laboratory, Diagnostic and Surveillance Services, Biosecurity New Zealand, Ministry for Primary Industries, Upper Hutt, NEW ZEALAND

WOAHP Reference Laboratory for varroosis of honey bees

Animal Health Laboratory, Diagnostic and Surveillance Services, Biosecurity New Zealand, Ministry for Primary Industries, Upper Hutt, NEW ZEALAND

WOAH *Reference Laboratory for mammalian tuberculosis*

Centro de Vigilancia Sanitaria Veterinaria (VISAVET), Universidad Complutense de Madrid,
Madrid, SPAIN

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 23 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

RESOLUTION No. 26

Designation of WOAHA Collaborating Centres

CONSIDERING THAT

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

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To designate the following new WOAHA Collaborating Centres and add them to the list of WOAHA Collaborating Centres (available on the WOAHA web site):

WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Wildlife Health Risk Management

Wildlife Health Australia (WHA), Cammeragal/Dharawal Country, Mosman, New South Wales, AUSTRALIA

WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Quality Control of Veterinary Vaccines in the Middle East

The Central Laboratory for Evaluation of Veterinary Biologics (CLEVB), Abbasia, Cairo, EGYPT

WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Day-One Veterinary Competencies in the Middle East

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Cairo University, Oula, Giza District, Giza Governorate, EGYPT

WOAHA Collaborating Centre for Economics of Animal Health in the Americas Region comprising the following consortium members:

Department of Agricultural Economics, Kansas State University, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Department of Economics, Business and Sociology (ESALQ/USP), University of São Paulo, and Faculty of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine, University of Brasília, BRAZIL

Department of Business, Economics and Rural Development, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Husbandry, Universidad Nacional Autonoma De México, MEXICO

School of Economic Sciences, Paul G. Allen School for Global Health, Washington State University, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 25 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

RESOLUTION No. 27

Extension to the Designation of Facilities Holding Rinderpest Virus Containing Material to Maintain Global Freedom from Rinderpest

ACKNOWLEDGING the declaration of global freedom from rinderpest in May 2011 and the commitment made by Members to maintaining this status, reaffirmed through WOAHP Resolution No. 21 (2017),

REITERATING the importance of reducing the risk posed by rinderpest virus containing material stocks through its safe destruction, including all the non-essential material held by designated facilities (hereinafter ‘Rinderpest Holding Facilities’),

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Resolution No. 23 (2014) requested the Director General to put in place, jointly with FAO, a system to designate, inspect, monitor and evaluate Rinderpest Holding Facilities,
2. Resolution No. 24 (2019) extended the designation of the Rinderpest Holding Facilities first designated through Resolution No. 25 (2015) for a three-year period,
3. Resolution No. 23 (2019) designated two new Rinderpest Holding Facilities for a three-year period.
4. Resolution No. 22 (2022) extended the designation of all the previously designated Rinderpest Holding Facilities for a one-year period.
5. An international team carried out site inspections of five FAO-WOAH designated Rinderpest Holding Facilities in four countries in 2022,
6. In the absence of a site inspection, the remaining two FAO-WOAH designated Rinderpest Holding Facilities provided a written report on the previous designation period to demonstrate compliance with their mandate and agreed to receive a site inspection in 2024.

THE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDS THAT

Members destroy all rinderpest virus containing material held within and outside FAO-WOAH designated Rinderpest Holding Facilities, with the exception of vaccine seed, manufactured vaccines, and essential diagnostic materials used by WOAHP Reference Laboratories for rinderpest.

RESOLVES

To extend the designation of the following facilities as approved for holding rinderpest virus containing material for the period of three years, on behalf of the WOAHP, and subject to equivalent action by FAO.

A) Rinderpest Holding Facility for storing rinderpest virus containing material, excluding vaccine stocks:

1. African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC), Debre-Zeit, Ethiopia.
2. Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD), Montpellier, France.
3. China Institute of Veterinary Drug Control/China Veterinary Culture Collection Center (IVDC), Beijing, People’s Republic of China.

4. High Containment Facilities of Exotic Diseases Research Station, National Institute of Animal Health, Kodaira, Tokyo, Japan.
5. USDA-APHIS, Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (FADDL), Plum Island, New York, United States of America.
6. The Pirbright Institute, Surrey, United Kingdom.

B) Rinderpest Vaccine Holding Facility for storing only manufactured vaccines, vaccine stocks and material solely for their production:

1. African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC), Debre-Zeit, Ethiopia.
 2. Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD), Montpellier, France.
 3. China Institute of Veterinary Drug Control/China Veterinary Culture Collection Center (IVDC), Beijing, People's Republic of China.
 4. Building for Safety Evaluation Research, Production Center for Biologicals; Building for Biologicals, Research and Development (storage), National Institute of Animal Health, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan.
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 23 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

Appendix

Mandate for a Facility Designated to Hold Rinderpest Virus Containing Material

The facilities designated by FAO and WOAHA to hold rinderpest virus (RPV)-containing material⁶⁰ (hereinafter 'Rinderpest Holding Facilities') have a mandate which justifies their function and ensures safe storage of this material.

The Rinderpest Holding Facility has a separate mandate and approval mechanism to that of a WOAHA Reference Laboratory for rinderpest and a FAO Reference Centre for morbillivirus.

Although the decision to designate a Rinderpest Holding Facility lies with the WOAHA World Assembly of Delegates, the Member's WOAHA Delegate must support the application and be fully aware of the Mandate, and the country hosting the Rinderpest Holding Facility should have an up-to-date contingency plan for rinderpest.

The following text describes the Mandates of the two categories of Rinderpest Holding Facility:

- A) Rinderpest Holding Facility for storing rinderpest virus containing material, excluding vaccine stocks.
- B) Rinderpest Vaccine Holding Facility for storing only manufactured vaccines, vaccine stocks and material solely for their production.

A) Rinderpest virus holding facilities for storing rinderpest virus containing material, excluding vaccine stocks:

1. To retain an up-to-date inventory of RPV-containing material and sequence data (including recording entry and exit of this material into and out of the facility), and to share this information with FAO and WOAHA through the designated web-based system.
2. To send an annual report to FAO and WOAHA through the designated web-based system.
3. To safely hold RPV-containing material at an appropriate level of biocontainment and ensure appropriate measures are taken to prevent its accidental or deliberate release.
4. To accept RPV-containing material from FAO and WOAHA Members for safe storage and/or for destruction.

⁶⁰

RPV-containing material means field and laboratory strains of RPV; vaccine strains of RPV including valid and expired vaccine stocks; tissues, sera and other material from animals known or suspected to be infected; laboratory-generated diagnostic material containing live virus, recombinant morbilliviruses (segmented or nonsegmented) containing unique RPV nucleic acid or amino acid sequences, and full length genomic material including virus RNA and its cDNA copies. Subgenomic fragments of RPV genome (either as plasmid or incorporated into recombinant viruses) that cannot be incorporated into a replicating morbillivirus or morbillivirus-like virus are not considered to be RPV-containing material, neither are sera that have been either heat-treated to at least 56°C for at least two hours, or shown to be free from RPV genome sequences by a validated RT-PCR assay.

5. To notify FAO and WOAHA before receiving RPV-containing material from other institutes for FAO to assist in shipping if needed and to ensure chain of custody.
6. To provide RPV-containing material to other institutes for the research or vaccine manufacture that has been approved by FAO and WOAHA.
7. To contribute, when requested by FAO and WOAHA, to the Global Rinderpest Action Plan and the global rinderpest vaccine reserve.
8. To maintain a system of quality assurance, biosafety and biosecurity, and to notify FAO and WOAHA, should a breach of biocontainment happen, with or without release of RPV-containing material.
9. To notify immediately FAO and WOAHA of any release or contamination of RPV-containing material in other virus stock or material stored at the facility.
10. To seek approval from FAO and WOAHA before manipulating RPV-containing materials for the purposes of research or any other purposes, including in private sector institutions, or before shipping RPV-containing materials to other institutes.
11. To work towards an ever-reducing inventory of RPV-containing material from the time of adoption of the resolution, aiming to keep only critical material (diagnostic material) to safeguard the global freedom.
12. To participate in scientific meetings in its capacity as FAO-WOAHA Rinderpest Holding Facility and using that title.
13. To undergo regular inspections and inventory audits by FAO and WOAHA, at the institute's expense, to ensure that storage is secure and that safe operating conditions are met.
14. To fully cooperate by providing all the relevant reports and information when FAO and WOAHA carry out a site inspection.
15. To provide technical advice or training to personnel from other FAO and WOAHA Member Countries on the destruction, safe shipment of RPV-containing material, and/or decontamination of facilities.
16. To establish and maintain a network with other Rinderpest Holding Facilities.

B) Rinderpest Vaccine Holding Facility for storing only manufactured vaccines, vaccine stocks and material solely for their production:

1. To retain an up-to-date inventory of vaccine stocks including current and expired vaccines and any materials solely for vaccine production and to share such information with FAO and WOAHA through the designated web-based system.
2. To send an annual report to FAO and WOAHA through the designated web-based system.
3. To validate or destroy stocks of expired vaccines and to share such information with FAO and WOAHA through the designated web-based system.

4. To accept vaccine virus seeds or stocks from FAO and WOAHP Member Countries for safe storage and/or for destruction.
 5. To notify FAO and WOAHP before receiving RPV-containing material from other institutes for FAO to assist in shipping if needed and to ensure the chain of custody.
 6. To provide vaccine virus seeds or vaccines to other institutes (public or private sector) for research or vaccine manufacture that has been approved by FAO and WOAHP.
 7. To contribute, when requested by FAO and WOAHP, to the global rinderpest vaccine reserve and the Global Rinderpest Action Plan, including through the emergency manufacture and preparation of vaccines in accordance with WOAHP standards and the FAO-WOAHP Criteria for Rinderpest Vaccine Manufacturers.
 8. To maintain a system of quality assurance, biosafety and biosecurity, and to notify FAO and WOAHP, should a breach of biocontainment happen, with or without release of RPV-containing material.
 9. To notify immediately FAO and WOAHP of any release or contamination of RPV-containing material in other virus stock or material stored at the facility.
 10. To seek approval from FAO and WOAHP before manipulating RPV-containing materials for the purposes of vaccine production or any other purposes, or before shipping RPV-containing materials to other institutes.
 11. To regularly test the quality of the vaccines in accordance with the WOAHP guidelines.
 12. To maintain and follow procedures approved by FAO and WOAHP for managing vaccine stocks (storing packaged and manufactured vaccine).
 13. To work towards an ever-reducing inventory of RPV-containing material from the time of adoption of the resolution, aiming to keep only the critical material (vaccine seed and manufactured vaccines) to safeguard the global freedom.
 14. To undergo regular inspections and inventory audits by FAO and WOAHP, at the institute's expense, to ensure that storage is secure and that safe operating conditions are met.
 15. To fully cooperate by providing all the relevant reports and information when FAO and WOAHP carry out a site inspection.
 16. To establish and maintain a network with other Rinderpest Holding Facilities.
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RESOLUTION No. 28

Strategic challenges in the global control of high pathogenicity avian influenza

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The global recurrence, spread and significant increase of high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) outbreaks is affecting domestic and wild birds, and some terrestrial and aquatic mammals, reflecting a distinct change in the epidemiology and ecology of the virus and posing a threat to animal health, public health, food security and biodiversity.
2. Conventional control measures of biosecurity, stamping out and movement restrictions, while important, can be insufficient and unsustainable given the global variation in production systems, the persistent threat of new incursions, and the high viral load present in the environment due to the ubiquitous sources of the virus.
3. The impact of the disease and mass culling of poultry result in substantial economic losses in production and associated industries, generating long-lasting effects on farmers' livelihoods and their mental health, high costs for government, and societal and environmental concerns.
4. Vaccination with high quality registered vaccines that are effective against circulating field strains can provide an extra layer of protection and reduce the quantities of the virus and the risk of further spread. Vaccination requires the adaptation of surveillance for early detection, demonstration of freedom from HPAI and monitoring of changes in circulating strains. In accordance with WOAHP international standards, the use of vaccination will not affect the status of a country or zone free from high pathogenicity avian influenza if its surveillance supports the absence of infection.
5. WOAHP international standards provide science-based recommendations to prevent the international spread of HPAI. However, concerns regarding international trade restrictions have hampered the pursuit and implementation of effective control tools and approaches, such as zoning, compartmentalisation and vaccination for HPAI control in domestic birds, which are already recommended in the adopted standards.
6. Avian influenza is identified as a priority disease by GF-TADs and most regions have mechanisms in place to promote regular exchange of information and best practices among risk managers to coordinate disease control policies and build science-based national control strategies.
7. Both the GF-TADs global strategy (2021-2025) and the Quadripartite One Health Joint Plan of Action provide frameworks to promote and foster enhanced collaboration between partners and stakeholders in animal health, wildlife health and public health, at global, regional and national levels.
8. The WOAHP Reference Laboratory Network on animal influenza and its Collaborating Centres support Members by improving the quality of laboratory tests (LPAI, HPAI) and vaccines, providing scientific and technical assistance, and expert advice on avian influenza diagnosis and control.
9. OFFLU (FAO-WOAHP network of expertise on animal influenza) is a well-established global network providing technical advice, expertise and training to improve diagnosis and surveillance for animal influenza and collaborates closely with WHO on issues related to the human–animal–environment interface.

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Members maintain transparency through timely and comprehensive reporting of avian influenza events to WOAHP as described in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

2. Members promptly share samples and virus isolates, virus sequence data, and associated epidemiological information with WOAHP Reference Laboratories, OFFLU and deposit sequences in publicly available databases to inform risk managers, thus enabling early detection, rapid response and pandemic preparedness through monitoring the evolution of LPAI and HPAI viruses.
3. WOAHP, in collaboration with WOAHP Reference Centres and OFFLU, assess the gaps in global coverage by national reference laboratories for animal influenza, identify ways to address capacity gaps, and ensure the sustainability of laboratories in under-resourced countries.
4. Members, with the support of WOAHP, the WOAHP Working Group on Wildlife, WOAHP Reference Centres and OFFLU, conduct appropriate, risk-based, comprehensive and systematic monitoring and surveillance in domestic birds, wild birds (e.g., along flyways) and in other susceptible animal species to support early warning and risk management at the human–animal–environment interface.
5. Members intensify the exchange of relevant information and coordination with public health authorities and other relevant authorities.
6. Members support poultry keepers, in particular smallholders, in implementing correct usage of disease preventive and control tools, such as enhanced biosecurity, early identification of clinical signs and reporting, to prevent the introduction and spread of HPAI.
7. Members respect and implement the adopted WOAHP standards and recognise compliant zones and compartments of their trade partners.
8. Members, in consultation with the poultry sector may consider the implementation of vaccination as a complementary disease control tool that is based on sound surveillance and takes into account local factors such as circulating virus strains, risk assessment and vaccination implementation conditions.
9. Members adopt vaccine best practices (stewardship) and reassess on an ongoing basis the use of appropriately field matched vaccine strains and the continuing need for update of vaccines.
10. Members respect and implement the adopted WOAHP standards and recognise compliant use of vaccination without negative consequences on trade, when the vaccination programme is supported by vaccination monitoring and disease surveillance systems that can demonstrate the effectiveness of vaccination and absence of infection.
11. WOAHP, with the support of its Reference Laboratories and OFFLU, provide up-to-date information to Members, the poultry sector and vaccine manufacturers on the genetic and antigenic characterisation of circulating virus strains, including comparison with existing vaccines, to infer levels of protection.
12. Members ensure the use of authorised vaccines manufactured according to WOAHP standards that are effective against circulating strains and regularly share information related to the effectiveness of the vaccination programme and their surveillance system to inform changes in vaccination strategies and policy.
13. WOAHP closely follow the changes in LPAI and HPAI virus ecology, epidemiology, validated sampling (e.g., novel technologies and environmental sampling) and diagnostic methods, to ensure the WOAHP Terrestrial Animal Health Code and Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals are up to date with the latest science and feedback from implementation.
14. WOAHP, in partnership with other international organisations and the private sector, develop guidance considering different production systems, to support the implementation of standards, such as on biosecurity, surveillance including vaccinated populations, and on the implementation of vaccination, zoning and compartmentalisation.
15. Members develop and implement national disease control and operational plans in cooperation and coordination with wildlife health authorities, public health authorities and the private sector to ensure a multi-stakeholder effort to combat HPAI.
16. WOAHP continue working with the Quadripartite partners to assess and address barriers to

intersectoral collaboration and promote the One Health approach to mitigate the risks of avian influenza.

17. WOAHA, in collaboration with FAO, under the coordinating mechanism of GF-TADs, promote global and regional coordination by updating the global strategy for the prevention and control of HPAI, and support regional coordination initiatives, such as the Standing Group of Experts, to strengthen expert networks, build capacity, exchange epidemiological information, share best practices and provide policy and technical support among and between regions.
 18. WOAHA, its Members and the private sector support research alliances and global research coordination mechanisms (e.g. STAR-IDAZ, WHO Public Health Research Agenda, OFFLU) to generate scientific knowledge using interdisciplinary approaches and tools, including the development, testing, production and approval of effective vaccines to contribute to the successful control of HPAI.
 19. WOAHA and its Members advocate for increased investment in low- and middle-income countries from funding institutions, the private sector, resource partners and development agencies in support of strengthening the human resource capacity and sustainable infrastructure of Veterinary Services, including diagnostic capability and early warning systems.
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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 25 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

RESOLUTION No. 29

Change of name of certain Sub-Regional Representations and of one Regional Commission

CONSIDERING

1. The Basic Texts that organise the functioning of the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, especially article 33 of the General Rules, as well as the relevant resolutions or other texts,
2. The 7th Strategic Plan of WOAHA (2021-2025), adopted by the Assembly on 27 May 2021, in particular the strategic objective regarding the “Review the business model of the Regional Representations”,
3. The Basic Texts that organise the functioning of the Regional Commissions, especially article 13 of the General Rules,

AND CONSIDERING

4. It is desirable, to have consistency in the terminology used in the names of WOAHA institutions,
5. The opinion of the Council, expressed at its meetings of September 2022 and February 2023, in favour of modifying the names of certain Sub Regional Representations to better reflect the relevant geographical coverage, and aligning the name of the Regional Commission with the name of the respective region.

THE ASSEMBLY, ON THE PROPOSAL OF THE COUNCIL,

DECIDES

1. To change the names of three Sub-Regional Representations as follows:

| CURRENT NAME | NEW NAME |
|---|---|
| (i) Sub-Regional Representation in Abu Dhabi | Sub-Regional Representation for the Arabian Gulf |
| (ii) Sub-Regional Representation for Central America | Sub-Regional Representation for Central America and the Caribbean |
| (iii) Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa | Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa |

2. To align the name of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania with the name of the corresponding Regional Representation and hence change its name to *Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific*.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 25 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

RESOLUTION No. 30

Register of terrestrial animal diseases diagnostic kits validated and certified by WOA

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 71st General Session of WOA in May 2003, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. XXIX endorsing the principle of validation and certification of diagnostic assays for animal diseases by WOA, and giving a mandate to the Director General to set up the specific standard procedures to be used before the final decision on the validation and certification of a diagnostic kit is taken by the World Assembly of Delegates,
2. The Resolution has established that “fitness for purpose” should be used as a criterion for validation,
3. The aim of WOA’s procedure for registration of diagnostic kits is to establish a register of recognised kits for WOA Members and for diagnostic kit manufacturers,
4. WOA Members need kits that are known to be validated according to WOA standards in order to enhance confidence in kits,
5. WOA’s register of recognised diagnostic kits provides greater transparency and clarity of the validation process and a means for recognising those manufacturers that validate and certify tests marketed in kit format,
6. According to WOA Standard Operating Procedure, registration of diagnostic kits included in the Register has to be renewed every 5 years,
7. During the 74th General Session in May 2006, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. XXXII on the importance of recognising and implementing WOA standards for the validation and registration of diagnostic assays by Members,
8. The *Validation Studies Abstracts* are available as annexes to the report of the Biological Standards Commission of 6-9 February 2023 (for the VDRG® FMDV 3Diff/PAN Ag Rapid kit, Enferplex Bovine TB antibody test (*additional claim*), BOVIGAM® – *Mycobacterium bovis* Gamma interferon test kit for cattle (*extension of the claim*), and Rapid MERS-CoV Ag Test (renewal with new studies). There is no Validation Studies Abstract for *Mycobacterium bovis* Antibody Test Kit, as this is a renewal without any additional data evaluation or changes.

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES THAT

1. In accordance with WOA’s procedure for registration of diagnostic kits and the recommendations of the Biological Standards Commission, the Director General proposes the inclusion in WOA’s Register of the following new terrestrial diagnostic kit certified by WOA for a period of 5 years:

| Name of the diagnostic kit | Name of the Manufacturer | Fitness for purpose |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| VDRG® FMDV 3Diff/PAN Ag Rapid kit | MEDIAN Diagnostics Inc | The VDRG® FMDV 3Diff/PAN Ag Rapid kit is a lateral flow test or pen-side test intended for the universal detection of foot-and-mouth disease virus (FMDV) of serotypes A, O and Asia-1 in tissue samples (epithelium) or fluid from blisters or ruptured lesions of suspected swine or cattle. The test is designed to be used for the rapid diagnosis of foot-and-mouth disease virus infection in samples from swine or cattle. |

2. In accordance with WOAHP procedure for registration of diagnostic kits and the recommendations of the Biological Standards Commission, the Director General proposes to **amend WOAHP validation of certification and fitness for purpose** in WOAHP's Register of the following diagnostic kits certified by WOAHP for a period of 5 years:

| Name of the diagnostic kit | Name of the Manufacturer | Fitness for purpose |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| Enferplex Bovine TB antibody test | Enfer Scientific ULC | <p>Additional claim:</p> <p>Fit for the detection of antibody to <i>Mycobacterium bovis</i> in bovine milk samples (May 2023) to be used as an ancillary test in conjunction with other methods for serological prevalence surveys, or diagnosis and management of <i>M. bovis</i> infection within herds, in particular for the following purposes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To confirm, but not negate, diagnosis of suspect or clinical cases, including confirmation of positive screening tests in individual animals and in herds based on detection of antibodies in individual bovine milk samples excluding colostrum and first milk samples taken within 4 days of calving. 2. As a screening test to identify herds with <i>Mycobacterium bovis</i> infection based on detection of antibodies in bovine bulk tank milk samples excluding colostrum and first milk samples taken within 4 days of calving. <p>** In 2019 this test was provisionally approved for testing milk samples from cattle as a herd screening test or as a supplemental confirmatory test for use in individual animals, when used in conjunction with other methods for diagnosing and managing <i>M. bovis</i> infection (Resolution No.31)</p> |
| BOVIGAM® <i>Mycobacterium bovis</i> Gamma interferon test kit for cattle | Prionics Lelystad B.V. | <p>Extension of the claim</p> <p>The BOVIGAM® - <i>Mycobacterium bovis</i> Gamma interferon test kit is an indirect assay intended for the detection of interferon-gamma (IFNγ) response elicited to specific stimulation by <i>M. bovis</i> specific peptides or proteins, in plasma obtained from stimulated blood samples of suspected water buffalos (<i>Bubalus bubalis</i>).</p> <p>** The original registration with Resolution No. 34 was adopted by the World Assembly of the OIE/WOAH Delegates in 2015. This test was renewed (Resolution No.20) without any additional data evaluation or changes in 2020</p> |

3. In accordance with WOAHA procedure for registration of diagnostic kits and the recommendations of the Biological Standards Commission, the Director General proposes **to renew** for a period of five additional years the inclusion in the WOAHA's Register of the following diagnostic kit certified by WOAHA as validated as fit for purpose:

| Name of the diagnostic kit | Name of the Manufacturer | Fitness for purpose |
|--|--------------------------|---|
| BIONOTE® Rapid MERS-CoV Ag Test Kit | BioNote, Inc | <p>Certified by WOAHA fit for the qualitative detection of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus antigens from nasal swabs in dromedary camels in the laboratory for the following purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detection of MERS CoV infected herds (herd test) with acutely infected animals with high virus loads; - When used as a supplemental test, to estimate prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis, e.g. surveys, herd health schemes and disease control programs <p>**The original registration Resolution No.15 was adopted in May 2016 by the World Assembly of the OIE/WOAHA Delegates</p> |
| <i>Mycobacterium bovis</i> Antibody Test Kit | IDEXX Laboratories | <p>Certified by WOAHA as fit for the detection of antibodies to <i>M. bovis</i> in cattle serum and plasma samples, to be used as a supplemental test, in conjunction with other methods, for diagnosing and managing <i>M. bovis</i> infection.</p> <p>The test also has utility when performing sero-surveys to understand prevalence and risk of <i>M. bovis</i> infection at a herd management level.</p> <p>**The original Resolution No. 24 was adopted in May 2012 and renewed by the World Assembly of the OIE/WOAHA Delegates by Resolution No. 19 in 2017</p> |

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 23 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

RESOLUTION No. 31

Register of aquatic animal disease diagnostic kits validated and certified by WOAAH

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 71st General Session of WOAAH in May 2003, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. XXIX endorsing the principle of validation and certification of diagnostic assays for animal diseases by WOAAH, and giving a mandate to the Director General to set up the specific standard procedures to be used before the final decision on the validation and certification of a diagnostic kit is taken by the World Assembly of Delegates,
2. The Resolution has established that “fitness for purpose” should be used as a criterion for validation,
3. The aim of WOAAH’s procedure for registration of diagnostic kits is to establish a register of recognised kits for WOAAH Members and for diagnostic kit manufacturers,
4. WOAAH Members need kits that are known to be validated according to WOAAH standards in order to enhance confidence in kits,
5. WOAAH’s register of recognised diagnostic kits provides greater transparency and clarity of the validation process, and means for recognising those manufacturers that validate and certify tests marketed in kit format,
6. According to WOAAH Standard Operating Procedure, registration of diagnostic kits included in the Register has to be renewed every 5 years,
7. During the 74th General Session in May 2006, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. XXXII on the importance of recognising and implementing WOAAH standards for the validation and registration of diagnostic assays by Members,
8. The *Validation Studies Abstract* is available as annex to the report of WOAAH’s Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission meeting of 15-22 February 2023 for the Innocreate Bioscience WSSV RP Rapid Test Kit for White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV) infection in shrimp.

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES THAT

1. In accordance with WOAAH’s procedure for registration of diagnostic kits and the recommendations of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, the Director General proposes the inclusion in WOAAH’s Register of the following new aquatic diagnostic kit certified by WOAAH for a period of 5 years:

| Name of the diagnostic kit | Name of the Manufacturer | Fitness for purpose |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| Inncreate Bioscience WSSV RP Rapid Test Kit | Inncreate Bioscience Co., Ltd. | <p>The Inncreate Bioscience WSSV RP Rapid Test Kit is a qualitative detection kit for WSSV infection in shrimp. The lateral flow immunoassay device is designed for the following purposes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Field based confirmatory diagnosis of clinical cases (includes confirmation of suspect cases and a positive screening test)2. Estimate the prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis in production system shrimp farms to aid in management practices. (The test kit should not be used to estimate prevalence in broodstock or post larvae shrimp for risk analysis prior to translocation to other farms or across borders).3. For use in conjunction with other tests or diagnostic procedures as an aid in the diagnosis or other clinical or epidemiological assessments. |

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates on 23 May 2023
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2023)

REPORTS

**of the Meetings of the Regional Commissions
held in the framework of the 90th General Session**

15 - 17 May 2023

**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-IBAR⁶¹, AU-PANVAC⁶², COMESA⁶³, ECCAS (RAHC)⁶⁴, ECOWAS (RAHC)⁶⁵, EISMV⁶⁶, GARC⁶⁷, GALVmed⁶⁸, ICIPE⁶⁹, ICRC⁷⁰, ILRI⁷¹, INTERPOL, Mott MacDonald (Fleming Fund), The Brooke, WAEMU⁷².

Observers: Chairs and members of the Biological Standards Commission and the Code 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. 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)

⁶¹ AU-IBAR: African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
⁶² AU-PANVAC: African Union Panafriean Veterinary Vaccines Centre
⁶³ COMESA: Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
⁶⁴ ECCAS (RAHC): Economic Community of Central African States (Regional Animal Health Centre)
⁶⁵ ECOWAS (RAHC): Economic Community of West African States (Regional Animal Health Centre)
⁶⁶ EISMV: *Ecole Inter-Etats de Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires*
⁶⁷ GARC: Global Alliance for Rabies Control
⁶⁸ GALVmed: Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines
⁶⁹ ICIPE: International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology
⁷⁰ ICRC: International Committee of the Red Cross
⁷¹ ILRI: International Livestock Research Institute
⁷² WAEMU: West African Economic and Monetary Union

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; VI) Good understanding of the socio-economic impacts of transboundary animal disease is key in supporting the investment case for risk management through implementation of WOA'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) WOA 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 WOA's 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 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. “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 EU 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-WOAHA 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 WOAHA 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, WOAHA 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 WOAHA 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, WOAHA 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 late 2022.

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES ONLY

11. 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 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 WOAHA increase rates since 2019 had been effectively extremely low (= - 0,3%).

Referring to WOAHA'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 WOAHA'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 WOAHA's financial sustainability.

12. Facilitated access to the voting platform

Mr Rodney De Souza, Head of WOAHA 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.

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 WOAHA 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: ALA⁷³, CaribVET⁷⁴, CVP⁷⁵, Feedlatina⁷⁶, HealthforAnimals⁷⁷, ICAFAW⁷⁸, IICA⁷⁹, OIRSA⁸⁰, SG-CAN⁸¹ y WRO⁸².

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.

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

Dr Jean-Phillipe Dop, WOAHP 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.

⁷³ ALA: Latin American Poultry Association

⁷⁴ CaribVET: Caribbean Animal Health Network

⁷⁵ CVP: Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone

⁷⁶ Feedlatina: association of Latin American and Caribbean feed industry

⁷⁷ HealthforAnimals: global animal health association

⁷⁸ ICAFAW: coalition of international global animal welfare organizations

⁷⁹ IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

⁸⁰ OIRSA: International Regional Organisation for Plant and Animal Health

⁸¹ SG-CAN: General Secretariat of the Andean Community

⁸² WRO: World Renderers Organization

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 WOAHP 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 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. “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 WOAHA Collaborating Centre consortium on Economics of Animal Health

Dr Rosemary Sifford presented a proposal to the Regional Commission for a consortium of WOAHA 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 WOAHA Member

Dr Wilmer Juárez Juárez informed the participants of the application by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for accession as a WOAHA 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 WOAHA.

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 WOAHA 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 WOAHS 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, WOAHS 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 WOAHS 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 WOAHS 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 WOAHS increase rates since 2019 had been effectively extremely low (= - 0,3%).

Referring to WOAHS'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 WOAHS'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.

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 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.

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 Idoyaga Benítez, 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 WOAHP 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 WOAHP Collaborating Centre consortium on Economics of Animal Health
8. Request of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to become a WOAHP 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 WOAHS Specialist Commissions and Working Groups

International/regional organisations: ICAFAW, Pacific Community, SAARC⁸³, and WWF⁸⁴

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.

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

Dr Jean-Phillipe Dop, WOAHS 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 WOAHS Regional Representation.

⁸³ SAARC: South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
⁸⁴ WWF: World Wide Fund for Nature

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 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. “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 WOA 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 WOA General Session: support for the Report of the Code 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 WOAHP 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 WOAHP Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific, introduced WOAHP'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. 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 WOAHP engagement and animal health in the Pacific

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

11. Application from Australia for a WOAHP 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 WOAHP 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 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.

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.

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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.

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 WOAHA through various means (Scientific Review, Newsletter, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting)
6. Discussion on regional positions for WOAHA 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 WOAHA engagement and animal health in the Pacific
11. Application from Australia for a WOAHA 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, Türkiye (Rep. of), Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Uzbekistan.

International/regional organisations: EC⁸⁵, EuFMD⁸⁶, FESASS⁸⁷, FVE⁸⁸, Health for Animals and Animal Health Europe, IABS⁸⁹, ICFAW/RSPCA⁹⁰, IEC⁹¹, WAP⁹².

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.

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.

⁸⁵ EC: European Commission

⁸⁶ EuFMD: European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease

⁸⁷ FESASS: European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security

⁸⁸ FVE: Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

⁸⁹ IABS: International Alliance for Biological Standardisation

⁹⁰ RSPCA: Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

⁹¹ IEC: International Egg Commission

⁹² WAP: World Animal Protection

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 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. “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 WOA 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 WOA 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 WOA 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 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 WOA Twitter account.

- GF-TADs coordinates the work of WOA 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, WOA 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 27 March, emphasising the commitment of FAO, UNEP, WHO, and WOA 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.

France expressed her endorsement of WOA'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 WOA Collaborating Centre in Lyon.

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

Ms Edna Massay Kallon, WOA 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 WOA, 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 WOAHA 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, 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 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 WOAHA increase rates since 2019 had been effectively extremely low (= - 0,3%).

Referring to WOAHA'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 WOAHA'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.

11. Facilitated access to the voting platform

Mr Rodney De Souza, Head of WOA's 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.

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 WOAHA through various means (Scientific Review, Newsletter, scientific paper, technical item or during a specific activity/meeting)
6. Report of activities under the WOAHA 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 (Rep, and United Arab Emirates.

International/regional organisations: AOAD⁹³, EuFMD, FAO, ICFAW,

Observers: ADAFSA⁹⁴, Chairs and members of the Code Commission, CIWF⁹⁵, Egypt Central Laboratory for Aquaculture Research, Merck Animal Health, Norwegian Veterinary Institute, and SPANA⁹⁶

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.

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”

⁹³ AOAD: Arab Organization for Agricultural Development

⁹⁴ ADAFSA: Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority

⁹⁵ CIWF: Compassion in World Farming

⁹⁶ SPANA: Society for the Protection of Animals and Nature (*Société Protectrice des Animaux et de la Nature*)

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, WOA 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, WOA 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 WOA 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 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 WOAHA increase rates since 2019 had been effectively extremely low (= - 0,3%).

Referring to WOAHA'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 WOAHA'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 WOAHA'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.

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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.

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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.

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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

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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